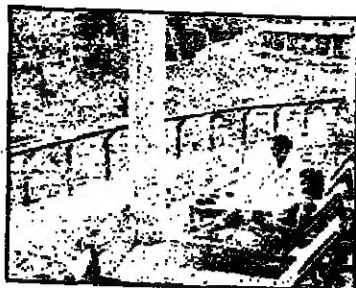




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Security cabinet endorses 425 plan

By JAY BUSHINSKY

In a unanimous vote, the security cabinet yesterday adopted UN Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for a total Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. It was a victory for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who not only instructed Israeli embassies and consulates throughout the world to publicize the decision, but also personally informed UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Annan, who was in Beijing, reportedly welcomed the decision and said the international community must take it

seriously. He promised to help implement it and said he will call on all those in a position to help as well.

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright called on Lebanon to hold talks with Israel, now that it has approved 425.

While the US still wants to see a broader peace accord in the region, "we understand the importance of making progress where we can," AP quoted her as saying at a news conference. "Discussions between the two parties would be useful."

A communique issued after the session, in which 11 of the 18 ministers

were eligible to participate, said: "The IDF will leave Lebanon with appropriate security arrangements so that the

Beilin presents withdrawal plan, Page 3

Lebanese government can restore its effective control over southern Lebanon."

It said the Lebanese government also would assume responsibility "for guaranteeing that its territory will not be used as

a base for terrorist activity against Israel." Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai denied the decision is merely rhetoric.

"This says that the cabinet made a responsible and important decision and adopted the initiative we began a few months ago. This initiative is to bring the government of Lebanon and its forces to take up responsibility over south Lebanon. I think the Lebanese are very interested in this step being implemented," he told Channel 2.

"The initiative is serious and I have presented it before various international figures in the past months," Mordechai said, adding he telephoned US envoy

Dennis Ross to inform him.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon reportedly said it is better to reach an agreement with Lebanon and in no way should the agreement with Lebanon be linked to the Golan Heights. Sharon said any attempt at withdrawal must be for a limited period of time, as a test period. He warned against bolstering UNIFIL as part of an agreement.

The cabinet urged Lebanon's government to negotiate, on the basis of Resolution 425 "to restore its control" over territory currently held by the IDF and "to prevent terrorist activities against Israel's northern border."

At the same time, it confirmed that the security and safety of the security zone's residents and the South Lebanese Army are "an integral part" of the resolution's implementation.

Netanyahu was undeterred by the instant rejections of the move by Lebanon and Syria. "It's a process," he said.

Mordechai said he believes Lebanon truly wants all foreign forces out of its territory. He said he has intelligence information that the Lebanese privately want to accept 425, but fear the Syrian reaction.

See PLAN, Page 3

AGENDA

By AVINOHAN BAR-YOSEF

Breathing easier

The assassination or accident that caused the death of Muhi Sharif, successor to Yihye Ayyash, "The Engineer," has not removed the Hamas terror threat, but senior Israeli and Palestinian officials are certainly breathing more easily.

For almost three years he has topped the "wanted" list, and time after time managed to evade capture.

If it transpires that one of the Palestinian security services was responsible for killing him and staging the car bombing, or that it was the result of Israeli-Palestinian cooperation, it could be said that the Palestinians have upgraded their willingness to deal with fundamentalist terror.

The full story is unlikely to be made public soon. It should be noted, however, that in recent months Yasser Arafat has been trying to keep things calm, as he realizes that terror is destructive from a tactical perspective. His population wants quiet. It does not want the closure renewed. People want to be able to go to work in Israel in the morning and arrive home safely in the evening.

This is why PA Police has recently been acting not only against Hamas, but also against protesters and stone-throwers.

See AGENDA, Page 6



Isahak Sharif, brother of Muhi Sharif, and a sister (right) comfort their mother, Zahira, yesterday, after Muhi was identified as the dead man at the scene of a Ramallah car-bomb explosion. (Reuters)

Israeli security sources:

Sharif killed in Hamas feud

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NABE

Muhi Sharif, the Hamas bomb mastermind responsible for the killings of scores of Israelis and whose mangled body was identified yesterday, was killed in



Muhi Sharif (Reproduction by Brian Hendler)

Police increase security, Page 2

Ramallah amid what Israeli security sources described as a violent rift within the Islamic movement.

Senior officials and security sources insisted that Israel was not responsible for the death of the 32-year-old Sharif, identified as the man found dead near Sunday's car bomb explosion outside Ramallah. "We did not have a part in the event that took place," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said. "Israel did not have an active part and did not operate in this affair."

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said Sharif's death could have been the work of either "Palestinian elements, Jewish elements or from his own elements," a reference to Hamas.

"I am saying unequivocally that Israel and its forces were not involved," he told Channel 1. "Sharif was a murderer and one

of the greatest terrorist criminals in Judea and Samaria and responsible for many attacks. But we had no hand in the matter," Mordechai said.

"We believe that it was a work accident," Mordechai added. "The Palestinian Authority needs to investigate it, but it would be better to start locating explosives and terrorists who walk about freely under their noses."

Sharif replaced Yihye Ayyash as Hamas' number-one bombmaker after Ayyash was assassinated in January 1996.

Palestinian Authority security sources said that Sharif, who shot dead three hours before the explosion and then blown up to cover up the assassination. They said

that an autopsy has determined that Sharif died from shots to the chest and leg, fired from a Kalashnikov rifle.

Sharif is to be buried today in Ramallah in what is expected to turn into a huge demonstration for Hamas.

Palestinian officials met last night to plan the deployment of police to ensure that the funeral does not turn violent.

"The identification of Sharif took us completely by surprise," a senior Israeli security source said.

"We rule out that the PA did it. Our working assumption is that Sharif was killed by somebody within Hamas. Why he was killed is something we can't say, but we know there was tension in the organization over his role."

Hamas activists maintained that Sharif was killed by PA agents in coordination with Israel.

But Hamas sources told *The Jerusalem Post* that the Palestinian Preventive Security apparatus, headed by Col. Jibril Rajoub, arrested Ghassan Addasi, a 19-year-old Hamas student leader at Bir Zeit University, in connection with the explosion.

The sources said that Addasi's father is suspected of having rented the Al-Bira apartment in which Sharif was hiding.

See SHARIF, Page 2

Israel Railways was warned to close line before second accident

By DAVID HARRIS

A rail accident involving dangerous chemicals occurred this week in Haifa, despite a warning that such trains should not use that line, following a similar accident a month ago.

The train which derailed on Monday was carrying tanks containing potassium nitrate and phosphoric acid, when it jumped the rails on the way from a Haifa Chemicals' plant to the city's port. Israel Railways yesterday con-

Tanks contained chemical used for explosives

firmed that it is beginning an internal inquiry into the incident, in which at least one wheel came off the track. Spokesman Benny Naor said while the chemicals on board were of a dangerous nature, there was no spillage.

"Both substances are dangerous and vehicles must carry warning signs when transporting them," said Dr. Israel Barzilay, director of the Environment Ministry's Hazardous Materials Department.

Potassium nitrate is usually intended for garden fertilizer, but is also used in explosives, fireworks, and matches.

"We warned Israel Railways not to use the line for the transport of dangerous materials after the first accident," said Barzilay.

This was denied last night by Israel Railways general manager Amos Uzumi, who said he had received no such warning and in any case the Environment Ministry

has no enforcement rights.

The question of legal responsibility was being discussed last night, with representatives of the Transport Ministry promising to look into it.

"It depends on whether the warning was given formally, but I will check the legal implications and see whether responsibility lies with us or the National Infrastructure Ministry," said a Transport Ministry official.

See RAILWAYS, Page 3

Official: Judge dismisses Jones case against Clinton

WASHINGTON - In a stunning victory for US President Bill Clinton, a federal judge has thrown out all of the charges in

Paula Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit, an official said yesterday. Sources close to Jones' legal team said that US District Court Judge Susan Webber Wright made the ruling in response to a submission by Clinton's lawyers that Jones had failed to show evidence that she had been damaged by Clinton's alleged harassment in May 1991 at a Little Rock hotel.

The judge in Little Rock, Arkansas, informed lawyers in the case yesterday afternoon that "All the charges are gone."

Jury weighs Papon verdict

BORDEAUX (Reuters) - Former Vichy official Maurice Papon yesterday awaited a verdict in his trial for war crimes, after dismissing the case against him as a tissue of lies and insults.

In a final emotional speech to the jury, the 87-year-old defendant denied all charges and blamed the marathon trial for the death last week of his wife of 66 years.

"If I thought I could render a final service to my country, I would gladly offer myself up to expiate the misdeeds of others," he said. "But I will defend myself."

The accusations are false and this trial is a fake."

Papon, on trial for his role in the deportation of Jews from Bordeaux, said he is the victim of a political trial designed to ease France's conscience for its wartime collaboration with the Nazis.

"In the absence of incontestable evidence, a judicial monster has been constructed," he said, describing the proceedings as "an unprecedented media pillorying made up of lies, insults, and infamy with the aim of inflaming public opinion."

Lotto-mania sweeps country

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

As tonight's Lotto drawing approaches, hundreds of thousands of people have been lining up to buy tickets, in the hope of winning the first prize of at least NIS 25 million.

Mifal Hapais managers expect this week's profits to reach NIS 70m., breaking a record set last October of NIS 63m.

The more people buying lottery tickets, the smaller each one's chances are, the experts tell us. But that didn't appear to deter anyone from crowding around lottery stands this week.

Asdod's Cafe Zameret, which has sold 62 first-prize winning tickets over the years, was especially popular as people from all over the country made pilgrimages to its doorstep.

"After Thursday's lottery, we hope to have created 63 millionaires," says cafe owner Yigal Arviv. "People came here this week from Ariel, Jerusalem, Ramat Gan and even Kiryat Shmona."

"It's a pilgrimage festival," Arviv adds. "Yesterday a man who lives in New York and came to spend the holidays with his family in Rehovot, came here in a taxi straight from the airport, suitcases and all, to buy his lottery ticket."

"For some the automatic choice of numbers from the machine is enough, but others ask me to fill in at least part of their ticket or tell them what numbers I recommend. Some prefer birthdays, significant dates or their wives' shoe size. Women always pick their children's birthdays," Arviv says.

This week people prefer numbers associated with the state's 50th anniversary, he said, noting "every raffle has its own symbolism. Around Lag Ba'omer people put down 33, at Tu B'Shvat they like 15. Gematria is a big thing, too."

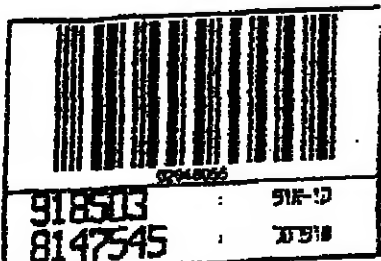
Dafna Shoshani, of Tel Aviv, is not a Lotto addict, but could not pass up a chance to win NIS 25m.

"For me, it's a cheap thrill. For NIS 20 I get to plan and imagine and fantasize for a whole week, and



A hopeful youngster picks up a Lotto form in Jerusalem yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

that's a pretty good bargain," she says. "The fact that I never win anything does not discourage me." Another ticket buyer, Ziva Majar, says, "I'm not developing any expectations or anything, but it's nice to dream. Besides, when you hear of everyone going crazy buying tickets, you feel like a freier not getting one, just in case. It would be nice to buy apartments for the children, get them settled down."



Police put on alert after Sharif death

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Israel Police and IDF forces are on heightened alert in light of threats by Islamic extremists to avenge the death of master Hamas bomber Mubi Sharif.

Police Inspector-General Yehuda Wilk said that there had been plans to take extra security measures during the Pessah holidays, but due to Sharif's death they would be increased even more.

"We have to take into account

that we are entering a month with many events, holidays and Independence Day," Wilk said yesterday.

"There will certainly be a heightened alert of the police.

"As part of our assessment, we take into account the declarations of the Hamas. In the past they made declarations and carried them out," Wilk said.

Wilk later convened top police commanders to discuss the steps to be taken and it was decided to start the Pessah alert today. Wilk

said that they would try minimize the effect the increased security would have on the public.

"Even actions we will take will be the kind that will prevent disruption as much as we can. We have to carry on with our normal

lives," Wilk said.

The IDF also is bracing for unrest following the mass funeral of Sharif in Ramallah today. Senior IDF sources said despite the alert, no reinforcements had been sent into the territories. They

also said that no top-level meetings between IDF and Palestinian officers were planned.

"It is a situation where there are chances of an attack and we have to take precautions," said one military official.

Ex-GSS head: We didn't kill him

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and MARGOT DUKKEVITCH

Ya'acov Perry, the former head of the General Security Service, said yesterday he would be "very surprised" if Israel had a hand in Mubi Sharif's death.

"As far as the information I have received it is not true," Perry said on Army Radio.

"Israel is not guilty in this instance, not that we should express satisfaction about the fact that one of the most senior fugitives of the Hamas, who was responsible for a large number of suicide bombings, found his death. But Israel has no part in this."

Perry also accused Hamas of manipulating the death to inflame the atmosphere and create a pretext to stage revenge attacks.

He theorized that Sharif's killers "could be the Palestinian security apparatus, using emissaries from rival factions in Hamas or Islamic Jihad."

Likud MK Gideon Ezra, a former senior GSS official, said there were many reasons to believe Israel was not to blame.

"It seems strange that the GSS would kill him in one place and then transfer him into Palestinian-controlled territory, put him in a car and blow it up," Ezra said on Channel 1's *Erev Hadash* program.

Hamas threatens Jews around the world

Hamas yesterday threatened to attack Jewish targets worldwide in response to the reported killing of its master bomber Mubi Sharif.

In a leaflet, it blamed Israel for Sharif's death and said such attacks "will push us, with no

other choice, to transfer our battle outside the homeland to get the Zionist interests all over the world."

"The Zionists must watch the strong, violent, earthquake reaction," the leaflet said, adding that retaliation would be "quick-

er than many people can imagine."

Hamas called on its "striking groups" to mobilize and "destroy all the interests of the cowardly Jews in the enemy army and settlers all over our holy land." (Reuters)



Palestinians throw stones at IDF troops during a protest march near Jerusalem yesterday after Palestinian Police announced that Mubi Sharif had been killed. (Reuters)

Bombmaker's death brings back bad memories for the victims

By ELLI WOHLGELERINTER

Petra Heldt's face may not look quite the same as it used to, but it doesn't prevent her from turning the other cheek.

Heldt was severely injured in the Mahaneh Yehuda bombing on July 30, which killed 16 people. She suffered third-degree burns on her face, hands, feet and parts of her upper body. She continues to wear special gloves and material on the grafted parts of her body, and will for another year, she said.

"If I hate these people who did it against me, I would become a bitter person, and would go around the rest of my life with bitterness. And that ultimately would destroy me."

"I personally have no grudge against these people, and certainly not against the family, or their families, so therefore knowing the name doesn't give me any satisfaction," she added.

Heldt, a Lutheran minister from Germany who has lived here for 20 years, said that what's important to be learned from the bombing is the danger of Islamic fundamentalism's

call for jihad, or war against the Jews.

She said this was "not a Middle Age philosophy which is far away from our reality, but it is part of our reality. The message not necessarily important for Israel, but it's a message that is important for the Western World, which does not understand the impact of jihad on their everyday life, because what we experience here is just the beginning, that could easily happen in other parts of the world."

Julie Botwin, mother of 14-year-old Yael Botwin, who was killed in the Rehov Ben-Yehuda suicide attack on September 4, said the death of the bombing mastermind doesn't really close the circle for her, "because I think there are more of these people out there."

"Maybe not from this particular cell, but there are other groups."

Still, she added: "I'm very happy they got this guy, I hope they can find more of them." Botwin said she doesn't carry a grudge, because "it doesn't help our situation to feel bitter at these people."

When she watched the news with her chil-

dren last night, "it was very upsetting because it reopened the wounds, and it's upsetting because we wonder how they are going to retaliate, if they're going to."

Five people were killed in the Ben-Yehuda attack.

Greer Fay Cashman adds:

"Regardless of what happens to any of the people responsible for the Ben-Yehuda bombing, it doesn't detract from the trauma and the physical pain from which my wife is still suffering," said Yoram Kaufman, who was wounded alongside his wife, Ora and infant daughter, in the blast.

The baby seems to have recovered and shows no memory of what happened, but Ora Kaufman, who is still treated for burns suffered in the attack, is still afraid to mingle with crowds and constantly begs loved ones to steer clear of heavy traffic and densely populated areas. The sound of a siren or an explosion sends her into near-panic.

"What she experienced doesn't go away easily," Kaufman said.

PA officials angry over US inaction

By STEVE RODAN

Palestinian Authority officials, disappointed by the visit of US envoy Dennis Ross, expressed frustration yesterday over what they said was the Clinton administration's refusal to press Israel to begin redeployment.

The officials acknowledged that their hopes that Ross would pressure Israel to accept PA conditions for redeployment were in vain. Instead, they said, he spent much of his time urging PA Chairman Yasser Arafat to show more flexibility and narrow the gap between the Palestinian and Israeli position.

He said he was disappointed that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has so far been able to thwart White House plans to release its program to end the

stalemate. He complained that the statements of Netanyahu's communications director David Bar-Ilan, who has insisted that progress was made during the Ross visit, have deflected the blame away from Israel.

He sounded angry over US warnings that Washington might withdraw from the process. "Why didn't the US withdraw from the Iraq issue, but says it might do so now with us?" he asked. "You know there are some who say that Israel is the 51st state of the United States and it's the one that leads the rest of the US."

Marwan Barghout, Fatah leader

in the West Bank and a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, said Ross's mission was doomed from the start. He said Ross spent much of his time "trying to market Israeli ideas" to the Palestinians.

PA sources said they are now hoping that Arab leaders will agree to a summit at which they will demand that Washington pressure Israel. Preparations for a summit have begun by Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia, and PA sources said these countries are trying to expand the number of Arab states that will attend and ensure that they agree to call for US pressure on Israel.

ring to the shooting of three Palestinian laborers whose van ran an IDF roadblock last month.

Publicly, however, Hamas leaders blamed Israel. "Abdul Aziz Rantisi, a Hamas leader in Gaza, dismissed Israeli denials of involvement in Sharif's death."

"I wasn't expecting the Israeli side to announce responsibility for this brutal crime," he said. Rantisi said he is waiting for the results of the PA investigation, but added, "Regardless who did it, the Israeli side cannot be exempt from responsibility."

Isahk Sharif, brother of the slain bomber, said Palestinian security agents came to his home in the village of Hizma, near Jerusalem, early yesterday. "They told us that there is a body we want you to identify," Sharif said.

Sharif said he identified his brother's body, even though his chin was missing and he was no longer wearing a moustache. He said he was told by the agents that Sharif was killed three hours before the car bomb explosion.

Israeli police officials, however, said that Sharif died in what were apparently two separate explosions. One was a huge explosion in what they described as a bomb factory. The second was a smaller explosion inside the car itself, set off by material similar to that found in a raid of a Hamas bomb factory several weeks ago in Nablus.

Deputy Commander Menahem Bome, chief sapper of the Israel Police, said his unit found "lots of bullets" and shrapnel in the destroyed car. It could have been that the bullets found in Sharif

exploded in the car bomb."

General Security Service chief Ami Ayalon was scheduled to meet with Palestinian security officials late last night but PA sources said the session would not take place. Ayalon, Israeli sources said, was to have urged his Palestinian counterparts to continue the cooperating as they did in investigating the car bombing.

PA officials also sought to play down Sharif's death.

Lisa Collins adds:

MK Ephraim Sneh (Labor) said: "I don't know who to praise for the operation and whether to do it in Hebrew or Arabic, but the person responsible for eliminating [Sharif] deserves full praise and the gratitude of all Israelis." Ariele O'Sullivan contributed to this report.

JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL **WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION**

We mourn the death of

MORDECHAI OLMERT ז"ל

who worked in the cause of Zionism and land settlement, with all his heart and all his might

Our sympathies to the bereaved families.

Avraham Burg Chairman, the Zionist Executive Sallai Meridor Treasurer

ADL

The Anti-Defamation League extends condolences to the Olmert family on the passing of their father

MORDECHAI OLMERT

Abraham H. Foxman National Director Howard P. Berkowitz Chairman

Rabbi David Rosen Director, Israel Office

UJA Federation offers condolences to

Mayor Ehud Olmert and his family on the passing of his father

MORDECHAI OLMERT

Loluse Grelshelmer, President Judy Peck, Chair of the Board Bobi Klotz, Vice President Stephen D. Solender, Executive Vice President

With deep sorrow and grief we announce the passing of our beloved

Attorney YEHUDA GOLAN ז"ל

The funeral will take place today, Thursday, April 2, 1998 (6 Nisan 5758), at 3 p.m., leaving from the Sanhedria Funeral Home.

Mourning by:

Wife: Sarah Daughter: Tamar Granddaughter: Michal Lee and the whole family

The Fellows, Overseers, and Staff of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs extend sincere condolences to

Prof. Daniel J. Elazar on the passing of his dear mother

NETTIE ELAZAR ז"ל

Miriam Schneirov Chairman, Board of Overseers Zvi R. Marom Director General

With deep sorrow we mourn the passing of our dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

NETTIE B. ELAZAR

The funeral took place on March 31, 1998.

Prof. Daniel Elazar and family David Elazar and family

Shiva at the home of Prof. Daniel Elazar, 18 Rehov Sokolow, Talbich, Jerusalem.

The Board of Directors and Staff of The Jewish Federation / Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago

mourn the passing of

BARBARA HOCHBERG

Chairman of the Board

A woman of valor and courage and a leader of compassion and vision.

MAY HER MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING. 1939-1998 5700-5758

SHARIF

Continued from Page 1

A senior Hamas activist in the Gaza Strip said there has been a rift inside his organization for the past year over its role and about whether to continue with terror attacks.

The activist said that a growing number of colleagues agreed with Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, that Hamas should not mar PA chief Yasser Arafat's efforts to obtain further Israeli withdrawals from the West Bank by resuming suicide bombings or other attacks.

"There is no question that the current quiet was part of an understanding between Hamas and Arafat not to rock the boat, even after the Tarkumiya killings," a senior Hamas activist said, refer-

ring to the shooting of three Palestinian laborers whose van ran an IDF roadblock last month.

Publicly, however, Hamas leaders blamed Israel. "Abdul Aziz Rantisi, a Hamas leader in Gaza, dismissed Israeli denials of involvement in Sharif's death."

"I wasn't expecting the Israeli side to announce responsibility for this brutal crime," he said.

Rantisi said he is waiting for the results of the PA investigation, but added, "Regardless who did it, the Israeli side cannot be exempt from responsibility."

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مكتبة التكميل

Beilin presents plan to withdraw from Lebanon

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

MK Yossi Beilin (Labor), presented his plan for a unilateral withdrawal of the IDF from Lebanon, which he said would ensure the safety of Israel's northern border and provide for the senior South Lebanese Army officers after its disarmament.

"The only feasible way to get out of Lebanon - as long as there is no agreement with Syria and Lebanon - is unilateral, but with a clear picture of what will take place in the area we evacuate. Otherwise we'll find ourselves stuck in Lebanon for many years to come," Beilin said at a press conference yesterday.

Beilin, who heads the Movement for a Peaceful Withdrawal from Lebanon, praised the cabinet for accepting Resolution 425 yesterday.

But he added that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's withdrawal proposal, which the cabinet adopted yesterday, is based on negotiations and agreements, which there is no chance of achieving.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon's proposal, which is for a withdrawal by stages, "means that any boy on a donkey with a Katyusha can torpedo the entire plan. If either of these ideas is adopted, we'll be staying in Lebanon indefinitely," Beilin said.

Beilin's plan, prepared after a

year's study and formulated with the help of two reserve colonels Asher Sadan and Jonathan Lerner, calls for the IDF to withdraw to the international border, along which a sophisticated electronic fence with radars will be built, at the estimated cost of some \$1 billion.

Although the plan is not based on formal agreements, it will rest on certain understandings reached via the UN, the US, Europe and possibly Japan.

As soon as Israel announces its withdrawal, the Security Council would convene to revise Resolutions 425 and 426, to re-define UNIFIL's mandate in south Lebanon to prevent terrorists penetrating Israel's border.

The Lebanese Army will take over the area evacuated by the IDF in coordination with UNIFIL, and Hizbullah will not be permitted to operate in this area.

The US, perhaps together with Europe and Japan, will make it clear to Syria that Israel's unilateral move is not aimed against it, and if it initiates any violence against Israel, directly or indirectly, it would be regarded as a pariah state.

Reuven Merhav, a former Foreign Ministry director-general and senior Mossad officer, who also attended the press conference, said the withdrawal plan would be based on the Saudi-brokered Taif Accords reached between the Syrians and Lebanese



Labor MK Yossi Beilin (right) explains his plan to withdraw from Lebanon at a Tel Aviv press conference yesterday, as fellow MKs Yael Dayan (Labor) and Dedi Zucker (Meretz) listen.

in 1989.

The Taif Accords, which deal with the redeployment in South

Lebanon according to Resolution 425 and are based on the 1949 armistice agreement, were guaran-

teed by the Americans and the UN, proving the Syrians and Lebanese can be partners to the

plan. But Labor MK Ephraim Sneh, a former commander of forces in

South Lebanon, attacked Beilin's plan and called it "a gamble on the lives of the residents of the North."

Sneh said Beilin's plan is based on conditions and promises of foreign elements which in the past have not proven reliable.

"Beilin suggests relying on UNIFIL and the Lebanese Army in fighting terrorism, but UNIFIL has been in Lebanon since 1978 and never fought terrorism, and has no motivation to start now."

"Why should a Swedish, Irish or French soldier lie in the mud and rain at night in an ambush to protect the residents of Kiryat Shmuna?"

As for the Lebanese Army, "There is no such thing as a sovereign Lebanese Army. I know it, and I know some of its commanders; it is a subject of the Syrians."

Sneh said the American threat to regard Syria as a pariah, which Beilin suggested, will not work, as it has failed to work on Iran, which is already a pariah state and still supporting terrorism.

Sneh urged returning to the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's plan to withdraw from Lebanon, based on disarming the Hizbullah, a six-month mal period with no terrorist attacks and the incorporation of the South Lebanese Army into the Lebanese Army.

Liat Collins contributed to this report.

Syria, Lebanon reject cabinet pullback plan

By DAVID RUDGE and news agencies

Syria and Lebanon were united yesterday in rejecting Israel's initiative to pull the IDF out of Lebanon in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 425, assuming security guarantees.

The Syrian media maintained that the security cabinet's decision yesterday to adopt the proposal and formally accept 425 was a ploy aimed at trying to split Lebanon and Syria.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri said the conditions that Israel had set for withdrawing was a new block to peace in the region.

"Arrangements demanded by Israel for implementation of Resolution 425 are a new obstacle by the Israeli government to hinder the establishment of the required just and comprehensive peace," Hariri told reporters in Damascus, where he held talks with Syrian leaders about Israel's offer.

Hariri said Lebanon was not

concerned about any security commitments to Israel, adding: "Implementation of UN Resolution 425 should be made without any conditions or negotiations."

He also called for a united Arab position to counter the "develop-

ments and dangers posed by the Israeli government's policies."

Syrian officials said Hariri, who arrived in the Syrian capital from Saudi Arabia, held two separate meetings with President Hafez Assad and his deputy, Abdel-Halim Khaddam.

The talks dealt with the Israeli "maneuver" regarding UN Resolution 425, among other things, one official said.

While in the Saudi capital, Hariri met King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdullah for talks on the Israeli offer and joint Arab action

to counter the Israeli plans, diplomats said.

Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, who is also head of the Amal Shi'ite movement, said there was nothing new in the cabinet's decision.

"The approved headline is the UN Resolution 425, but the content is something else," Berri was quoted as saying.

Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, who spoke to journalists in Abu Dhabi, said that if Israel wanted to withdraw from south Lebanon it should do so unconditionally and unilaterally.

"We will not negotiate for one second over 425, because if we did then the security resolution would become null [and void]," Hrawi was quoted as saying.

Hizbullah did not react, although a statement on its own radio station said the Israeli cabinet's decision marked the opening of a new page. The statement did not elaborate, although Hizbullah is expected to comment further today.

Security Council Resolution 425

The Security Council.

Taking note of the letters of the permanent representative of Lebanon and the permanent representative of Israel.

Having heard the statements of the permanent representatives of Lebanon and Israel.

Gravely concerned at the deterioration of the situation in the Middle East and its consequences to the maintenance of international peace.

Convinced that the present situation impedes the achievement of a just peace in the Middle East.

1. Calls for strict respect for the territorial integrity, sovereignty, and political independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries;

2. Calls upon Israel immediately to cease its mil-

itary action against Lebanese territorial integrity and withdraw forthwith its forces from all Lebanese territory;

3. Decides, in the light of the request of the government of Lebanon, to establish immediately under its authority a United Nations interim force for southern Lebanon (UNIFIL) for the purpose of confirming the withdrawal of Israeli forces, restoring international peace and security, and assisting the government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area, the force to be composed of personnel drawn from state members of the United Nations;

4. Requests the secretary-general to report to the council within 24 hours of the implementation of this resolution.

IDF improves arms of troops in Lebanon

By ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN

Improved weaponry, advanced equipment, and the use of dogs have given troops in Lebanon the edge in combat with Hizbullah gunmen and allowed them to remain in the field longer, Brig-Gen. Yair Naveh, the chief para-trooper and infantry officer, said yesterday.

"The infantry is preparing itself differently for duty in Lebanon," he said during a tour of the main infantry training base.

According to Naveh, improved marksmanship and the three-week training at the IDF's guerrilla warfare school have given Israeli fighters the edge in firefights in Lebanon.

"We are pretty satisfied with the infantry encounters in Lebanon," he said.

One of the improved weapons is the M-16 A-3. The US-made assault rifle has a night-vision scope and is equipped with a bipod.

Its 5.56 mm. rounds are more powerful, boosting its range. The A-3 entered service just under a year ago and can be found among IDF troops in Lebanon.

In addition, the IDF has also changed its sniper rifle to the newer M-24, which is the preferred sniper rifle in the US forces. The IDF has added an advanced

night-scope, something even the Americans have not introduced yet, a sniper instructor said.

And combat battalions have also been equipped with a massive rifle, called a Barrett, which fires a .50 caliber round.

Military reporters were also shown the Israeli-made Negev heavy machine gun, which last year replaced the MAG. Negevs being used in Lebanon are being equipped with a laser sight which can only be detected with a special lens worn by the gunner. Even without the sight, a female instructor displayed its lethality by quickly tearing apart targets from a range of 300 meters.

Naveh said other improvements have also given IDF the upper hand in the complicated battlefield of south Lebanon. But he said that Hizbullah is constantly learning IDF tactics and adapting to them. It too, Naveh said, is trying to equip its fighters with night vision, but has yet to do so on a large scale.

IDF forces were also given a boost in recent years by the use of dogs. Troops have been using sniffer dogs to detect roadside bombs and have found 18 since 1995.

"Dogs are the only tool we have which is capable of detecting these sort of bombs," said Lt.-Col. Shlomo, head of the IDF's kennel unit.

before the results of the investigation are known," said Uzani.

"Clearly older lines are less satisfactory and there are greater chances that there will be accidents, despite the good work of our engineers," Naor said.

Following the first incident, repairs were made where the train left the track, but the route was not closed. The second accident took place some two kilometers down the line.

The investigation will also look at the speed of the train. The maximum speed on the track is between 15 and 40 kilometers per hour. Naor explained that permissible speeds vary depending on the quality and age of the track. For example, while the old line between Tel Aviv and Lod allows for trains to reach 100 kph, the new track alongside can take speeds up to 160 kph.

RAILWAYS

Continued from Page 1

When the present government came to power in 1996, responsibility for management of trains was transferred to the National Infrastructure Ministry. Last night, a spokesman for the National Infrastructure Ministry said that responsibility for safety lies with Israel Railways itself, but legal authority is still invested in the Transport Ministry.

The Israel Railways inquiry will look at two probable causes of the accident: It happened on poor track, dating back 30 years, and it is thought that individual carriages were linked too closely together, causing contact when the train entered a curve. The driver has not been suspended.

"I decided to close the line even

Gov't protests to UN about bomb

By DAVID RUDGE

The six Shi'ite residents of the security zone killed in a Hizbullah roadside bomb attack were laid to rest in the cemetery of their home village yesterday, as Israel lodged a complaint with the United Nations monitoring group over the incident.

The IDF also protested to UNIFIL over the fact that Tuesday's attack, near Kawkabeh village in the eastern sector of the zone, occurred in an area under its supervision and not far from a position manned by Norwegian troops from the peacekeeping force.

The protest was submitted during a meeting between officers from the IDF's Foreign Forces Liaison Unit and senior UNIFIL officers at the Rosh Hanikra crossing point yesterday.

The IDF spokesman said UNIFIL had been informed of the gravity with which the IDF viewed terrorist activities close to a UN position, and was asked that steps be taken to ensure it would not happen again.

Representatives from the two sides are to meet again following the completion of UNIFIL's own inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Brig-Gen. Erez Gerstein, head of the IDF's Lebanese Liaison Unit, said yesterday that the civilians killed were all residents of Kila vil-

lage, some from the same family, who had been returning home after working at the South Lebanese Army's Kawkabeh position.

He said the device, that was detonated by remote control along-side their pick-up truck, had contained some 20 kg. of explosives packed with metal balls.

"We see once again that in certain incidents, the UN does not succeed in carrying out its task, such as in this case, when it should prevent terrorist activities. The terrorists managed to act very close to the UN position and stood there a long time, because to plant such a device is complicated," said Gerstein.

therefore, there is nothing left to do but use force."

Hagai Segal, in Ma'ariv, says the US has no plan, but on the other hand, has plans to oust Netanyahu. "Washington suggests an impossible withdrawal proposal and hopes the Israelis will punish Netanyahu for his stubbornness and elect [Labor Party chairman] Ehud Barak instead of him."

He adds it is better to enter a conflict with the US now, when most of the territory belongs to Israel, rather than "fight the Arabs in 5-10 years when our backs are to the sea."

ment has reached the conclusion that Netanyahu must be pressured. Therefore, "the US will continue pressing with the hope that the Israeli government will relent and be forced to keep its promise, while simultaneously... sending the message: 'You cannot quarrel with America.'"

Ma'ariv's Akiva Eldar states that pressure is the only language that Netanyahu understands. "Our neighbors have concluded that Israel understands pressure and power. They claim that the countries do no pressure us enough and

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

Peace process

The stalemate in the peace process continues following Dennis Ross's visit. The press relates to the deadlock and provides its predictions as to the future moves of the parties involved.

Ma'ariv's Chemi Shalev says the almost unanimous conclusion is that "the peace process has reached a dead end and the American mediation has ended in complete failure."

Yediot Aharonot's Orly Azoulat-Katz claims that the state depart-

PLAN

Continued from Page 1

"We will continue to discuss various possibilities to implement this decision" he said.

Netanyahu noted that there have been 20 years during which no such decision was taken, referring to the fact that Resolution 425 was adopted by the Security Council in March 1978, five days after the Litani operation, an IDF raid into Lebanon that attempted to eliminate terrorist activity along the border. He said none of Israel's security needs were being forfeited.

But he could not envision any security arrangements being instituted between Lebanon and Israel "that would not be the result of direct negotiations with Lebanon."

Liat Collins adds: "Israel is seeking a way of leaving Lebanon," said Tourism Minister Moshe Katzav. "This is not a decision taken for political reasons or public relations needs."

Environment and Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan said the decision is a good one.

"This is a major breakthrough," said Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani. "The Syrians are bewildered and the Lebanese will come to bless it."

However, Meretz leader Yossi Sarid described the decision as "another case of pretense in the impressive collection of bluffs by the Netanyahu government. The government should have decided on the resumption of the negotiations with Syria and not decide to go with two birds in a tree, both of them groundless. The way this government is going, the messiah will come before it carries out a withdrawal from Lebanon."

MK Ephraim Sneh (Labor), a former commander in Lebanon, described Resolution 425 as "a bluff that the Israeli government rejected for 20 years. Why? Because it's based on the bluff that there is a sovereign Lebanese Army and sovereign Lebanese government." He also said a serious proposal involves talking with the Syrians.

Arnie O'Sullivan contributed to this report.

Only Washington can cajole Syria

It is unfortunate that the security cabinet's momentous decision to adopt UN Security Council resolutions 425 and 426 calling for an IDF withdrawal from Lebanon was taken on April 1.

The date itself could be used by Syria's propaganda machine to ridicule the proposal and portray it as an April Fools joke.

Nevertheless, Syrian President Hafez Assad will have difficulty in explaining why Damascus, and by proxy Beirut, are opposed to implementing UN resolutions after 20 years of constantly calling for them to be carried out.

Damascus has made it clear that neither Syria nor Lebanon will countenance Israel's demands for security guarantees, although these demands are based on two clauses in 425 which call for the Lebanese government to reassert authority over south Lebanon and for the restoration of peace and security in the region.

The arrangements sought by Israel are to guarantee the safety of northern communities and the welfare of South Lebanese Army soldiers, their families and other security zone residents in the wake of an IDF withdrawal.

Yet analysts say that the success of the 425 initiative is not to be found in Beirut, but in Damascus and Washington.

The Lebanese may wish to follow through on Israel's proposal but cannot do it without the blessing of "big brother" Syria. The Syrian President for his part is unlikely to suddenly let go of his Lebanese trump card unless he is offered something substantial in return.

Some observers note that an IDF withdrawal could raise questions about the continued presence of Syrian troops in Lebanon. With an estimated 800,000 Syrians working in Lebanon, their employment is considered far more significant to Damascus' well-being than the restoration of the Golan Heights.

According to the observers, Assad can be expected to do his utmost to retain Syrian control over Lebanon while using the issue of peace and quiet in the south as a bargaining chip in negotiations over the Golan.

Only the US is said to have the necessary clout to persuade Damascus that it would be in Syria's best interests not to oppose the 425 initiative.

The removal of Syria from the "black list" of countries which support terror, an unwritten agreement to recognize Syria's "special relationship" with Lebanon and other inducements, could form the basis of a package of incentives for Assad.

Yet analysts believe the US would be unlikely to go out on a limb for 425 at a time when the Clinton Administration is threatening to curtail mediation of deadlocked Israeli-Palestinian talks.

So far, the US has shown interest in the 425 proposal and a willingness to learn more, but that is a long way from the kind of active participation that would be needed to persuade Assad to change his stance.

ANALYSIS

By DAVID RUDGE

On democracy, decorum

"You would expect that a democracy would create relations based on respect among men, and here it just doesn't seem to work," writes Shulamit Hareven in Yediot, criticizing the Israeli mentality in general and specifically

the lack of mutual respect among people who undermine one another and push and shove, physically and figuratively.

"Israeli society has turned into a forceful society and more: It pardons forcefulness and almost approves it. If that is democracy, then it is faulty," she states.

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הלוא מן אלול

Christian groups eschew proselytizing

United Christian Council refuses to endorse joint statement

By NAIM SHAPIRO

A broad spectrum of mostly Protestants and Evangelical Christians appeared yesterday to endorse a statement which in effect rejects active proselytism.

The move brought MK Nissim Zivili (Labor) to declare opposition to an anti-missionary bill he had sponsored with MK Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism).

The bill proposes a one-year prison sentence for "unlawfully holding, printing, copying, spreading, distributing, or importing material which has an element of proselytizing."

Another bill, which MK Raphael Pinhasi (Shas) said he plans to introduce, would impose three years' imprisonment or a NIS 50,000 fine on anyone who exhorts another to change his religion.

The United Christian Council in Israel, a mostly evangelical group, did not endorse the statement, in response to publicity which preceded the gathering at the Jerusalem offices of the American Jewish Committee, UCCI president Charles Kopp said last night that the publicity had made it appear that those present would be relinquishing their right to say what they believed.

"We felt that the statement was good, but being the experienced politician that he is, Zivili couldn't resist getting some extra mileage out of it," said Kopp.



Labor MK Nissim Zivili (left) shares a few laughs with Christian leaders, Rev. Petra Helld (center) and Charles Wagner, director of Bridges for Peace, at a meeting yesterday in Jerusalem.

AJC Israel director Joseph Alpher told those present that the statement was not a legal document, but an informal charter negotiated which calls for dialogue rather than legislation to solve an issue of great sensitivity. Alpher stressed that most of the groups represented at the gathering didn't engage in proselytism,

although there were representatives from bodies which have been identified as having a missionary outlook.

Charles Wagner, director of Bridges for Peace, a pro-Israel Christian institution, and one of the statement's authors, said that the wording represented months of activity. He also took the opportu-

nity to reject accusations that any Christian group, missionary or not, held out financial inducements for people to become Christians.

"Our religion teaches us that faith is an intimate relationship between God and man. It cannot be bought, sold or imposed.... We wish to make it clear beyond all reasonable doubt: Christian churches, evangel-

ical missionary societies and other Christian organizations do not engage in any material enticement of any sort," Wagner said.

Zivili said not only would he withdraw sponsorship from his anti-missionary bill, but he would try to convince the Labor Party to vote against it, as well as against Pinhasi's bill.

PM adviser seeks 'official agent' status for Pollard

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

Shimon Stein, the legal adviser of the Prime Minister's Office, is working on a formula which would declare that convicted spy Jonathan Pollard was conscripted by people acting on behalf of Israel, although without the government's official blessing.

The formula, which has received a nod from the defense establishment and State Attorney Edna Arbel, is expected to satisfy Pollard's request for recognition as an official agent for whom the government would take responsibility, a source told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Pollard's Jerusalem lawyer, Larry Dub, had been instructed by his client earlier to turn down a vaguer version of official recognition.

At the first meeting yesterday of the ministerial committee for securing Pollard's release, Communications Minister Limor Livnat and Immigration and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein came out in favor of full recognition of Pollard as an Israeli agent.

Recognition would help Pollard cover his lawyers' fees, and get monthly compensation and medical assistance while in prison.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman reportedly told the cabinet last week, after meeting Pollard, that he was not in good health.

Channel 2 reported last night Pollard had sent an angry letter to the committee two weeks ago, complaining that Israel was not doing enough to help him. The report said as a result, Israel is trying to work out a plan to publicly acknowledge Pollard as a spy.

Cabinet Secretary Dan Naveh, the committee's coordinator, is expected to leave shortly for Washington to build up a lobby for Pollard on Capitol Hill. He is expected to take a letter co-signed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Opposition leader Ehud Barak, calling on Jewish organizations to work on Pollard's behalf.

The letter is expected to point out that Pollard has expressed remorse and deserves to be released on humanitarian grounds.

Naveh is expected to request that US Vice President Al Gore bring Pollard with him when he travels to Israel for jubilee celebrations at the end of the month. Alternately, he will ask for Pollard's release as a special gesture sometime during the 50th anniversary year.

US Congress forms committee to investigate Holocaust victims' assets

By MARILYN HENRY

Nearly a year after the US government issued a "Nazi gold" report calling for "immediate" action on behalf of Holocaust victims, Congress yesterday initiated legislation to create a "Presidential Advisory Commission on Holocaust Assets in the US."

The legislation, which was scheduled to be announced yesterday in Washington, would create a 23-member commission of political and private- and non-profit-sector figures to deliver a report and recommendations to US President Bill Clinton by December 31, 1999.

With a \$3.5 million budget, the commission would conduct original research on the collection

and disposition of Nazi victims' assets under US military and government control from 1933, sources said in Washington. Those assets include gold, gems, bank accounts, financial instruments and art work.

Last May, the US government released a historical review, conducted by a dozen federal agencies and led by Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat, on Nazi gold and the Allied efforts to recover and restore assets that were stolen by the Third Reich.

"One aspect of the study deserves immediate attention and action: the plight of those who were victims not only of war and the Holocaust, but of the sad combination of indifference on the part of the neutrals and inaction by the Allies," Eizenstat said

in the foreword to that report.

The US planned a second report, which was due to be released this spring, but may not be issued until late summer, sources said.

In another development, the Swiss government ruled out participating in negotiations between Holocaust survivors and heirs and the three major Swiss banks, which are facing three class-action lawsuits in federal court in New York.

Last week, Union Bank of Switzerland, Credit Suisse and Swiss Bank Corporation announced they were willing to enter formal talks aimed at a "global resolution" of Holocaust claims related directly to the banks.

Yesterday's announcement in

Washington comes more than a year after Seymour Rubin, the State Department lawyer who negotiated the 1946 Swiss-Ally post-war pact known as the Washington Agreement, asked Eizenstat to look into the history of unclaimed American bank deposits that may have belonged to Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

Those accounts were worth at least \$6m. in 1945, but the Americans in 1962 turned over only \$500,000 in compensation, Rubin said in a letter to Eizenstat last year.

As "redress" for heirless Jewish assets in the US, Congress recently passed legislation that would make available up to \$25m. to benefit Holocaust survivors.

MKs protest Jewish Agency's budget cuts for youth movements

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee, chaired by MK Naomi Blumenthal (Likud), demanded yesterday that the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization renege on plans to cut the budget for youth activities.

At an emergency meeting convened during the Knesset recess, Blumenthal said any harm caused to youth movement activities "directly strikes at the essence of the Jewish Agency's existence." She said the movements are almost the only potential for strengthening the link to Israel and of building a future leadership for Diaspora Jews.

MK Ophir Pines (Labor), put it more bluntly: "Who needs the Jewish Agency if it harms the activities of the Zionist youth movements?" MK Micha Goldman (Labor), a former deputy education minister, called the decision a declaration of bankruptcy, and said that without the funding, Diaspora youth would be lost.

MK Naomi Chazan (Meretz) described the activities of the youth movements abroad as one of the pillars of Israel's existence. Chazan called for the committee to stop cooperating with the Jewish Agency if the cuts were made.

Amos Hermon, chairman of the Jewish Agency's education divi-

sion, said the cuts to the youth movements were unavoidable in the face of a massive drop in income from fundraisers.

"We took a decision that the harm to the youth movements will be minimal and will not be more than 5 percent of any other activity in the division," Hermon said.

Representatives of the youth movements said that the Jewish Agency's budget stands at \$400 million and only 1 percent of this reaches the movements even before the planned cuts.

Goldman also accused the agency of wasting money on public relations and less essential activities.

MK Rivlin: Palestinian Police activity in capital shows city is divided

By ELLI WOHLGELER

The recent arrests of Arab workers in eastern Jerusalem by Palestinian Authority security forces proves that sovereignty in that part of the capital is under the jurisdiction of the PA, according to MK Ruby Rivlin (Labor).

"Every day we are discussing the idea that we should not even put on the agenda the idea of

negotiations over Jerusalem," Rivlin said, "and here the reality is that we have Palestinian sovereignty in Jerusalem. They want to show that there is no one who can bring law and order to the east side of Jerusalem but the Palestinian Police. As a matter of practice we see - and they prove every day - that Jerusalem is divided."

On Tuesday, two people employed by a private firm conducting a survey for the Ministry of Transportation were arrested by PA security forces and taken to Ramallah for interrogation. The two were questioned and held for three hours and then released.

Last week, 14 other ministry inspectors were arrested in Jerusalem by PA troops and abducted to Ramallah. They too were held and interrogated.

One solution to Palestinian Authority power in eastern Jerusalem, Rivlin said, is "to create a brigade of police" in the area

to monitor the situation.

Police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said the issue is not a bigger police presence.

"Listen, you can't have control of 170,000 people who are going about their business in east Jerusalem," he said. "There may be two within the 170,000 who approach another two and say to them, 'Come with us.' After all, we're not the KGB, where anyone in the street is arrested. But we are bringing into play and will put into effect all the means at our disposal to prevent this phenomenon from continuing."

MK Ophir Pines (Labor) agreed that there is a problem regarding who is in control of the eastern part of the city.

"We are trying to show them who is running things, and they are trying to show us whose is running things there," Pines said. "I think that those who are paying the price are the members of Arab population in east Jerusalem."

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Court rejects 'mercy killing' petition

Judges deny parents' request to unhook terminally ill child from life support

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

The High Court of Justice yesterday turned down a petition to have a terminally ill boy removed from life support.

The court recommended that the parents—who had asked that their severely retarded eight-year-old son be unhooked from hemodialysis equipment that is keeping him alive—take their case back to Family Affairs Court.

The seven-member bench headed by Supreme Court President Aharon Barak had been expected to hand down a precedent-setting ruling. But Justice Dalia Dorner said there was conflicting evidence about the boy's condition.

While prosecutors reported that he had improved as a result of treatment, the parents brought an expert who testified that his

condition had continued to deteriorate.

The case concerns a child from a town in the North who was born normal but developed a rare condition, which resulted in severe retardation because it was not diagnosed at an early stage.

Last summer the boy's kidneys stopped functioning and he required surgery to be put on life-support systems.

Because of his retardation, it was clear that the boy was not a candidate for a kidney transplant since there is a shortage of such organs.

The parents, who say they realized then that their child had no hope of recovery and would suffer more and more until his death, refused to sign for the operation and requested that the boy be taken off the painful equipment and treatment. The state took them to Family Affairs Court.

Since then, the child has had five operations while the parents fought the state in court. "Another operation is due to take place in two weeks," the family's attorney, Yitzhak Hoshen, said in court yesterday.

He said that the child has to undergo hemodialysis three times a week, suffers a great deal, and no longer smiles or recognizes his mother.

Rachel Zackai of the State Attorney's Office said that the state would reconsider the parents' request if more complicated invasive procedures become necessary.

"The child is still able to enjoy life, according to those who take care of him," Zackai said.

"But presumably a stage will be reached when an additional decision will have to be taken. What is not clear is when that will be."

Justice Michael Cheshin suggested that the parents ask MKs to amend legislation with regard to the right to die. "It is not the duty of the court but of the legislature to decide on such a matter," he said.

Barak called for a recess so that the justices could confer. When the court reconvened, he announced that the petition had been rejected.

The boy's mother, who started sobbing as the ruling was handed down, said that the court had "put us back to where we were eight months ago. Our son has been declared 100% handicapped. Now there will be additional operations," she said. "Six have not succeeded. He is undergoing dialysis every other day. I see nothing but suffering until he dies."

"The justices decided not to decide," the boy's father said.

Technion develops land-mine clearance system

By JUDY SIEGEL

Technion scientists in Haifa have developed the first highly effective "toolbox" for dismantling land mines.

In December 1996, the system was declared "99.6% effective" by the UN's Canadian adviser on land mine dismantling, but only yesterday was news about the equipment released by the Technion for publication.

The "toolbox," comprised of heavy vehicles, combines and chain-equipped tractors with or without extended arms, is "the first of its kind in the world" to address the variety of problems involved in the dismantling of buried explosives, the Technion said.

Prof. Gedalyahu Maor, who heads the Technion's agricultural engineering faculty where the system was developed, said provides efficient and flexible solutions to the topographical and climatic conditions of the area that needs to be cleared of mines.

"We have succeeded in doing this with impressive reliability of 99.6%, which is demanded by the UN, compared to only 40% success rates for other solutions that are often used for mine clearing," said Maor, who developed the system with his colleague Prof. Dani Wolf.

The delay in publication was due, in part, to the fact that a patent for the "toolbox" was issued only recently.

Over 26,000 people are killed or wounded around the world each year by land mines.

An estimated 100 million mines are buried in a third of the world's developing countries, said Maor.

The Technion equipment, operated by remote control, Maor said, can dismantle anti-personnel and anti-tank mines buried under as much as 15 centimeters of soil; it can also handle mines under up to 50 centimeters of more solid material that are set to explode when agricultural equipment passes over them.

The kit is effective against mines under thick weeds or brush and in areas with difficult topography.

"Our 'toolbox' contributes to the growing international effort to eliminate this danger from the world," Maor concluded. "We are looking for investors to help us complete development and manufacture the system for sale around the world."

The late Princess Diana dedicated much of the end of her life to a campaign against land mines. The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded last year to Judy Williams for her efforts to reduce their use.



Winnie the Pooh visits the land of milk and honey

Winnie the Pooh is greeted yesterday at Ben Gurion Airport by children from the Gezer Regional Council area, after flying in for a pre-Pessah visit. His trip is part of a worldwide tour sponsored by Disney and UNESCO in advance of an early May children's summit at Disneyland Paris.

(Yossi Ziv)

Ministry ends English licensing exams for immigrant nurses

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Health Ministry has unilaterally abolished the right of immigrant nurses to take their licensing exam in English. The ministry explained that "tests in this language were never legal but only a holdover from the British Mandate."

However, it continues to allow doctors to take similar exams not only in English, but in virtually any other language, including Spanish, French, Italian, Russian, Arabic, Polish, and Bulgarian. Pharmacists who want to be licensed can also take their qualifying test in English.

Alisa Chinnomas, a veteran immigrant from the US who lives in Ra'anana, yesterday protested against the discrimination, which, she said, would prevent her and perhaps hundreds of immigrant nurses from working here. The option of English-language exams

was cancelled in December by the ministry following approval by Director-General Gabi Barabasi.

Ministry deputy director-general Yair Anukam, who is acting spokesman, said that "unlike doctors, nurses have to speak with patients on an ongoing basis, so a Hebrew exam can be justified." He promised, however, to raise the matter with Health Minister Yehoshua Matza today.

Prof. Joseph Schenker, chairman of the state board for medical examination, said that Israel is "the only country in the world" to allow doctors to take qualifying exams in a foreign language. About 90 percent of immigrant doctors take the tests in a foreign language, he said. While physicians and pharmacists need familiarity with English because many of their texts are in that language, nursing texts too are often written in that language. Thus barring nurses from taking the test in

English, Schenker maintained, is "unfair. Arabic is an official language of Israel, but nursing tests are not translated into Arabic. I recommend that the theoretical exam for nurses be given in English and even in other foreign languages, and that a separate test of basic conversational Hebrew for dealing with patients be given as well."

Haya Bialik, of the ministry's nursing department, said that regulations going back to 1988 require nurses who want to enter the list of nursing professionals to "prove that they have knowledge of basic Hebrew." She added that nurses coming from France, Holland, Germany, and the former Soviet Union had been given the option of taking the exam either in Hebrew or English, "thus causing discrimination" because they couldn't sit for the test in their native language, so English was removed from the list.

Crown Heights killer gets 19 years

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK—Still insisting on his innocence, Lemrick Nelson was given a maximum sentence Tuesday of 19 years in prison for the fatal stabbing of Yankel Rosenbaum during the 1991 Crown Heights riots.

Nelson, now 22, was convicted last year on federal civil rights charges for the death of Rosenbaum, a Hasidic scholar from Australia. He was previously acquitted of state murder charges.

After the original state verdict, the family, Hasidic leaders and politicians had lobbied Attorney General Janet Reno to prosecute Nelson under federal law.

"I am sympathetic to your feelings of loss for your son," Nelson told members of the Rosenbaum family who flew to New York from Australia to attend sentencing. But he said: "I had no action, no part in it."

"Even though I've been found guilty of this crime, I'm like a scapegoat," Nelson said, adding

that his civil rights had been violated because he was tried twice for the same crime.

"A measure of justice was at

last achieved," said Michael Miller, director of the New York Jewish Community Relations Council.

Ta'as: Budget excesses have been resolved

By STEVE RODAN

Ta'as—Israel Military Industries yesterday dismissed as outdated a state comptroller's report that its executives made an inordinate number of trips abroad and launched numerous projects without conducting market research.

"The comptroller's report regards what happened until the end of 1995," Ta'as managing director Shlomo Milo said. "Since then, we have a new board and managing director. We have changed the entire policy."

Milo said the company is now tightly supervised and does not allow trips without his authorization. The comptroller's report said that the company spent \$2.4 million a year on about 800 trips in 1995 and 1996. In some cases, Ta'as paid for private vacations and for spouses who accompanied staffers on business trips.

The report also said that Ta'as had approved 50 development projects without conducting research to determine whether they could be successful. The result was that Ta'as lost \$26 million in failed projects.

Milo and other Ta'as executives said this practice has also ended. He said that Ta'as has shed virtually all of its civilian sector business and has concentrated on developing such military products as smart munitions, tank and artillery shells, rocket boosters, and small arms.

"The area of research and development is surrounded by uncertainty," Milo said. "But today, we have become much more careful. We have left the civilian sector and we will not as policy return to this arena."

Bella Abzug, a fighting feminist

The death of Bella Abzug Tuesday in New York at age 77 is a loss to all women, who benefited from her humor, intelligence and indefatigable efforts to improve the quality of their lives.

As a member of the Israeli government delegation to the UN Commission on Status of Women in New York a few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to see her for the last time. Despite her illness, she was vintage Bella, wearing a flamboyant hat and thirsty for information on new efforts in Israel on behalf of women.

Born in the Bronx to a traditional Jewish family, Bella's humorous stories of her childhood are legend. Her father was a butcher whose motto was "Live and let live."

As a child, she found boys' games more interesting and preferred them to girls' activities. The boys weren't always so eager to accept her participation and neighbors often called Bella's mother to the window of her apartment because the boys were "killing Bella again!"



Bella Abzug (Camera Press)

A graduate of Columbia Law School and a labor and civil rights lawyer, in 1970 she ran for the US House of Representatives with the slogan, "A Woman's Place is in the House."

When she won the election, she quoted her daughter as publicly stating that "it's better that Bella is in your house than our house."

Bella's serious messages were always couched in earthy humor, and perhaps that is one of the reasons that those of us who knew

her, loved her so. Her compassion and her strong sense of social justice guided several generations of activists.

At the Beijing World Conference on Women in September 1995 she was one of the main attractions. Sitting with Asian women dressed in saris, African women in native dress and Western women in tailored suits, I found myself laughing with all of them as Bella enthralled us and challenged us.

With her thick Bronx accent, she threw out the gauntlet for the generations to come as she stated: "Some wonder how I have kept going for so long and how I have managed to remain optimistic...I am fueled by the passion of the women I have been privileged to meet and work with, buoyed by their hope for peace, justice and democracy. I am strengthened by each of them. 'Never underestimate the importance of what we are doing here. Never hesitate to tell the truth. And never, ever give in or give up.'" Sharon Shenhar

NEWS

in brief

Hoter-Yishai questioned for criticizing court

Israel Bar Association Chairman Dror Hoter-Yishai was questioned under warning yesterday by police for criticizing a Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court when he was convicted last month on tax evasion charges. He accused the court of trickery and called the verdict stupid.

Hoter-Yishai has also appealed the verdict, regarding his handling of his father's income in 1990 and 1991, for which he received a six-month suspended sentence and a NIS 50,000 fine. *Itim*

Families can't see full Ivry panel findings

The High Court of Justice yesterday rejected a petition by the families of 15 of the IDF servicemen who were killed in the helicopter collision over She'ar Yashuv in February of last year.

The families requested a copy of all the findings of the Ivry Commission which had investigated the crash. The court accepted the IDF's argument that members of the families could look over any material that was not censored and make copies of it. *Batsheva Tsur*

Peace groups protest jubilee funding

The Organization of Peace Movements in Israel yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice against the prime minister and the organizing committee of the jubilee celebrations.

In its petition, the organization said it was planning Independence Day and peace celebrations at Rabin Park on the "Burma Road," between Mesilat Zion and the Harel Junction. However, the jubilee committee had refused to help fund the activities, saying it lacked the money.

The committee is funding Hebron's 30th anniversary celebrations but is refusing to fund the peace group's events for political reasons, the petition claims. *Batsheva Tsur*

Ministers recommend tightening tobacco laws

The Ministerial Committee on Legislation yesterday announced it would support a bill to impose further limits on tobacco advertisements. The bill also calls for changing the warning label on tobacco products, which now reads, "The Health Ministry has determined that smoking is harmful to health," by adding the words, "and causes serious and fatal illnesses." *Itim*

Tumarkin to receive disputed prize

Sculptor Yigal Tumarkin is to receive the Zussman Prize, withdrawn from him by Yad Vashem because of his anti-haredi remarks, in a ceremony today at the Jewish Museum in Vienna. He will receive the prize—awarded for his pro-democracy, anti-fascist work—directly from the Zussman family, which originally contributed the money for the prize to Yad Vashem. Austrian Chancellor Viktor Klima and other dignitaries will attend the ceremony. *Itim*

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הדפסה מלאה

Escaping isolation

Iran and Iraq, the region's most important radical states, have conflicting strategies for escaping isolation and sanctions.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein huffs and puffs and threatens to blow everyone's house down unless sanctions end soon against Iraq. He denies concealing weapons of mass destruction and claims to be the persecuted victim of US double standards. (France and Russia are eyeing the vast potential profits their companies will make once sanctions are lifted.)

In sharp contrast to Iraq, while Iran's sincerity in embracing moderation can be disputed, success of this maneuver is clear.

Iranian President Mohammed Khatami's landslide victory last year reflected the discontent of young people, women, intellectuals, and many others, at the tight social restrictions and economic mismanagement of Iran's Islamic regime. Khatami's cleverly worded speeches, personal charm, and diplomatic gestures are bringing about the first opening in US policy toward Iran since the ill-fated secret arms deal of over a decade ago. At the same time, he is making real headway in reconciling with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab states after almost 20 years of friction and mistrust.

Since January, we've seen: — the landmark invitation and successful tour of a US wrestling team in Iran; — President Bill Clinton's decision to avoid enforcing laws mandating sanctions against foreign companies making large investments in Iran; — a US request, according to high-ranking Iranian officials, to open an interests section in Tehran, though the US has denied this, perhaps on technical grounds; — unprecedented efforts by Iranian-Americans and American experts on Iran to launch a lobby advocating improved contacts and normalized relations.

Iran's previous president and still-powerful leader, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, went to Saudi Arabia for two weeks, followed by visits by an Iranian warship and the country's foreign minister. Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah, who may soon be monarch given King Fahd's poor health, strongly advocates improved relations.

The Saudi government fired a leading cleric who made critical remarks during Rafsanjani's visit about Shi'a Muslims, the sect to which most Iranians belong.

To tighten anti-Iraq sanctions, Iran cracked down on the smuggling of Iraqi oil through its territory.

TEHRAN'S EXPRESSED opposition to a US bombing attack on Iraq does not mitigate its hatred of a neighbor with which it fought an eight-year-long war. When Iraq's foreign minister visited Tehran during the Islamic conference earlier this year, Khatami avoided seeing him for as long as possible and then received him coldly.

Both US and Gulf Arab policymakers want to use Iran to counter

Iran. An Iranian official said that improved Saudi-Iranian relations are "not welcome news in Washington." But that's not true, given the US drive to find new allies against a resurgent Saddam.

Certainly, Iran has not stopped battling against the Arab-Israeli peace process, sponsoring terrorist groups, or attempting to develop longer-range missiles (and possibly nuclear weapons).

While closer Saudi-Iranian relations are aimed against Baghdad, not Jerusalem, there is absolutely no sign of reduced Iranian hostility to Israel.

Part of the problem is, that unlike Saddam next-door, Khatami does not have full control over the government he nominally heads.

Iran's spiritual guide, speaker of parliament, and many other high officials oppose his effort to steer a new course. They have formed vigilante groups to harass — even physically attack — Khatami supporters. Rather than fight the extremists, Khatami

seems likely to give them autonomy on the terrorist groups, weapons of mass destruction, and anti-Israel fronts.

The US argument for giving Khatami a chance is to show Iranians that they can gain a lot by changing their policy and strengthening Khatami's faction. The policy of dual containment, of trying to pressure and isolate both Iran and Iraq, could become a pro-Iran, anti-Iraq policy similar to that pursued by the US and the Saudis during the 1960s and 1970s.

This situation creates a tremendous dilemma for Israel. In recent years, Israeli leaders have portrayed Iran as the country's most important foreign enemy. That was an understandable stance given Saddam's weakness and Iran's hostility. After all, Hizbullah and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (Iranian-Hamas ties have been growing but are still quite limited) are killing Israelis.

Saddam's escape from the fetters of sanctions makes Israel welcome any chance to rebuild ties with Iran.

Yet what if Europe and the US move closer to Tehran without gaining real Iranian concessions on terrorism, missiles, and anti-Israel propaganda? Israeli intelligence has proved correct, and US intelligence wrong, about the pace and success of Iran's missile program. A few weeks ago, the US uncovered and blocked a secret Chinese deal on nuclear weapons-related technology. American efforts continue to stop Russian sales of equally dangerous equipment.

The only way to handle this problem is to keep options open, carefully monitor Iranian behavior, and bring Tehran's misdeeds to the broadest possible Western attention. The extent of Israel's cooperation with the US on the peace process will also be a factor in the attention Washington pays to Israeli concerns over Iran.

The writer is a senior resident scholar at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies and editor of the Middle East Review of International Affairs.

The Region



Barry Rubin

Just turn it off

A new anti-TV movement gathers momentum in and beyond the US

By KEVIN DRAWBAUGH

Jean Lotus kept her secret to herself until a friend, disgusted by a trashy talk show, threw his TV set out of his third-floor bedroom window one night.

With that, she stopped being embarrassed and started proclaiming — she and her family do not own a television.

"I thought about it. I knew a lot of people who didn't own TVs. And we were all in the same situation. So why not have a little newsletter? That's how it started," the Chicago mother of two and former newspaper reporter said.

Now a leading voice in the growing anti-TV movement, Lotus publishes a quarterly journal called *White Dot* from Chicago and has co-authored a book to be published in two weeks in Britain titled *Get A Life: The Little Red Book of The White Dot*.

Television and its supposed evils will also be the focus of an annual appeal to Americans to switch off the tube for seven days during TV Turnoff Week, April 22-28.

Although it may still be a fringe notion, the idea of TV-free living has prime-time potential, said Henry Labaline, executive director of TV-Free America, a Washington, D.C., non-profit organizing group.

"There's so many good reasons for turning off the TV," said Labaline, who blamed insomnia, depression, obesity, illiteracy, wasteful consumerism and a host of other modern maladies, at least in part, on too much time spent staring at the box.

The average US household has 2.5 television sets, up from 2.25 three years ago. The total time spent watching television has fallen slightly over the same period to 3.7 hours per day for the average American. That adds up to about 56 days a year, or 11 years over a 72-year lifespan.

While reducing the quantity of television watched is the chief goal of TV-Free America, White Dot



Proponents say the idea of TV-free living has prime-time potential, activists say.

named for the small point of light that flickers briefly on the screen after a TV is turned off — also criticizes the quality of programming.

"There's a significant segment of the population out there who feel the television problem has become so intractable that maybe it is time to turn it off," Labaline said. "Maybe all the efforts of the last 40 years to make television better, to make it more informative, to clean up the violence and the sexual content, just have not worked and will not work."

TV Turnoff Week started in 1995 in the United States. This year it is spreading to Britain, Canada, Denmark, Australia and New Zealand. The campaign is endorsed by the American Medical Association, the American Heart Association, the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, the

American Federation of Teachers, the Natural Resources Defense Council and others.

John Earnhardt, a spokesman for the TV industry's National Association of Broadcasters, said he was unfamiliar with TV Turnoff Week. "We're all for health and community productivity but obviously local television brings a lot of good to each community that it serves," Earnhardt said.

TV-Free America, which distributes organizing kits to schools, churches, businesses and others willing to sign up participants, estimates that four million people took part last year. This year the target is five million.

"Arbitrarily turning off the television for a designated week is not the answer. The answer is critical viewing," said Scott Broyles, spokesman for the National Cable Television

Association, which sponsors efforts to teach parents to manage their children's TV watching. "There is some very educational and positive programming on cable television every day."

The anti-TV movement has its roots in a groundbreaking 1979 book, *The Plug-In Drug*, by Marie Weiss. Three years later, a group called the Society for the Eradication of Television was formed in Albuquerque, New Mexico, by Mary Dixon.

"She really broke the ice for the whole idea of living without a TV and being proud of it," said White Dot's Lotus, who co-wrote her book with David Burke, an American and fellow University of Chicago graduate now living in England.

Get A Life, not yet published in America, is "a funny self-help book for TV addicts," Lotus said.

On White Dot's Web site, she says the book "shows readers what television does to them: how it's turning adults into babies; how it's domesticating humans like farm animals and how it's setting us up for a science fiction nightmare that's already happened. TV is taking over the world."

That kind of language is common in the anti-TV movement.

Labaline conceded that it puts activists at risk of being seen as alarmist and elitist in a culture where TV is so pervasive that small sets are now common even in bathrooms.

But the anti-TV crowd is counting on a backlash, Labaline said.

"Twenty years from now, people are going to look back and wonder, 'What on earth was everybody doing, spending all that time watching the tube?'" (Reuters)

Serbian public lashes out at US

By LEE HOCKSTADER

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — When sectarian violence shook the province of Kosovo recently, Serbian lawmakers bowed their heads to commemorate their own: four dead Serb policemen, slain in the line of duty over a single weekend. At least 16 ethnic Albanians also died, but they were ignored by the Yugoslav parliament.

The small independent Belgrade newspaper *Danas* duly recorded the event on an inside page with a small headline: "A Minute of Silence for the Police Only." That's when the death threats started.

One man faxed a letter declaring he would make known his displeasure with the headline by visiting the newspaper's offices in the company of an automatic weapon. Another wrote to inform the editor that "the next minute of silence will be for you."

This was of some concern to the directors of *Danas* or *Today*, whose

pockets are so shallow that reporters have not been paid since December and the notion of hiring a security guard is simply fantastic.

However, the reaction was also not a complete surprise. The crisis in Kosovo, a secessionist province of Serbia overwhelmingly populated by ethnic Albanians, has unleashed a rising tide of extreme Serbian nationalism and ethnic hatred. Serbia is the dominant republic of Yugoslavia. The virulence of the public rhetoric in Belgrade, and the difficulty of dissent, is reminiscent of the prevailing political mood during the catastrophic wars in Croatia and Bosnia.

"A lot of Serbs grew up with the myth of Kosovo and don't want to listen to anything the news has to tell them," said Dusan Simic, publisher of *Danas*.

"What they know is that the Serb nation was born there and that we should not (give up) the soil of our ancestors."

Despite a crackdown by Serbian

police that killed at least 80 ethnic Albanians, including some two dozen women and children, Serbia's political class has spared the regime of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic harsh criticism for its actions.

The West's threat of more sanctions against Yugoslavia has infuriated Serbs, whose anemic economy is already depleted by measures the US has maintained against the country — in part because of its failure to end the repression in Kosovo.

In conversations with a range of people in Belgrade, it is common to hear complaints — and not only from devoted nationalists — that the Serbs are being unfairly singled out and victimized by a wrathful world, most of all by Washington.

The state-controlled electronic media mutes out a daily dose of fact distortion and racist venom directed against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo and a welter of other perceived enemies — Bosnia, Turkey, Germany, Croatia, Albania.

Much of the coverage is devoted to demonizing and dehumanizing the Albanians who, according to one headline, are intent on spilling "Christian blood."

Those in the media who offer a different picture risk reprisals.

Two months ago, before the crackdown in Kosovo, the newspaper *Nasa Borba* suffered the wrath of readers when it gave an award for tolerance to Kosovo's ethnic Albanian students who had carried out peaceful protests against the government only to be beaten by the police.

"We got 30 letters, all of them critical," said Ivan Mirdjen, editor of the independent daily. "They said the Albanians weren't tolerant, they were secessionists. Through that, you can see that intolerance is a major part of public opinion here. The state media attacked us. We were also criticized by intellectuals."

The official media's influence on public opinion remains strong despite the birth of a handful of

struggling independent publications and an aggressively nonpartisan radio network.

The few newspapers that have tried to present some semblance of a balanced account of the bloodshed and police crackdown in Kosovo have been hauled before the police on the orders of the state prosecutor.

Their offense, they were told, is to have referred to "Albanians" as having suffered casualties in paramilitary police attacks. In fact, say Serbian law enforcement people, the correct word is "terrorists" — even for women, children and the elderly.

Several editors said the episode was a chilling return to the early stages of the war in Croatia in 1991.

At the time, Milosevic's government insisted that newspapers refer to Serbia's enemy not as the Croatian army but as "Ustashe military formations." Ustashe were Croatian fascists in World War II who supported the Nazis and killed

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AGENDA

Continued from Page 1

Perhaps this is the reason Arafat visited the Anne Frank House during his visit to Amsterdam. It all makes a good impression.

The problem facing the security forces — Israel and Palestinian alike — in dealing with Hamas, is that there are still four highly dangerous terrorists roaming the territories, who are experts in concealing explosives, recruiting terrorists, and building bombs.

Mahmoud Abu-Hunud of Hebron, the brothers Adal and Imad Abdullah, who operate in the Ramallah-Nablus axis, and Mohammed Deif in Gaza remain alive and show no intention of taking early retirement.

Timing is of no consequence to Hamas. It operates as soon as it is ready. Once it has the explosives, the volunteers, and the experts available to prepare the devices, it shoots. It might turn out to be Hamas Day, or close to Land Day, or during a visit by Dennis Ross. It makes no difference. The important thing is to cause Jewish casualties and to embarrass Arafat.

National reconciliation?

Dennis Ross did not depart completely empty-handed but neither does he have sufficient ammunition to ensure continuation of the peace process. It would appear that the Israelis, the Palestinians, and the Americans have all found themselves in a situation in which they cannot accept an imposed American solution, but cannot manage without it.

The US administration does not want a confrontation with Israel. Vice President Al Gore is prepar-

ing for a tough election campaign, which he will essentially be opening in Israel on its 50th Independence Day. Bill Clinton really wants to help him, so publishing an American plan for a imposed solution would be unthinkable. And while publicizing the American proposals might be considered, this will not help Gore in his efforts, either.

In the complex situation that now exists between Washington and Jerusalem, the belief that only a national-unity government is capable of promoting the peace process is rapidly gaining ground. This view prevails not only in Beit Hanassi, but also among members of the cabinet, including Nathan Sharansky and Yaakov Neeman.

The analysis is quite simple. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai promised a redeployment by April, as did The Third Way and Sharansky. On the other hand, Mofedet and the NRP, together with the Likud's ideological faction — Benny Begin, Uzi Landau, David Re'em, and Michael Kleiner — are breathing down the prime minister's neck. Mofedet is set to submit a vote of no confidence in the government.

There are some MKs who are toying with the notion that if the opposition manages to enlist 61 MKs to vote no-confidence, 80 MKs will magically appear to support impeaching the prime minister, so as to dump only him and leave the Knesset intact.

But whoever looks carefully at the law will realize that this is impossible. A vote to impeach the prime minister must be scheduled in advance. This enables the prime minister to be prepared; he cannot be removed "on the fly."

Moreover, neither the NRP nor Mofedet has a better prime-ministerial candidate than Binyamin

Netanyahu. And early elections would require the support of David Levy, who is not yet prepared to run independently.

The Americans understand all this. They know that if there are early elections, chances are that Netanyahu would be reelected.

Shas holds the key. MK Aryeh Deri may have won on the meat-market law, but he has lost most of the battles he considers important. He did not manage to appoint a justice minister who would stop the proceedings against him nor did he manage to appoint a state attorney to his liking. He had no success with the amnesty bill. He is annoyed with the Likud, but he realizes that Labor offers no salvation. Confirmation of this came in the vote by Labor MKs on the amnesty bill.

He is now turning to the president of the Supreme Court and to Meretz. He is working for national reconciliation. As Deri sees it, national reconciliation equals unity. Unity equals bringing Labor into the coalition and withdrawal of the right-wing parties. The peace process moves forward. Shas holds the balance of power. Deri has been crowned. In other words: "If Deri is sent to prison, there will be chaos. Shas is on the brink."

What was discussed

When Ross arrived here he wanted to discuss the extent of the redeployment. Netanyahu preferred to talk about principles. What will happen if the negotiations fail; how do we ensure that the Palestinians fulfill their commitments; whether or not there will be a third redeployment.

The demand to have terrorists extradited, almost torpedoed any possibility of dialogue with Arafat.

Ross met for talks with Sharansky and Ariel Sharon and twice visited President Ezer Weizman. He is trying to break the deadlock and prevent a crisis in relations between the two countries. He needs a hand to be stretched out to him; he cannot go back to Arafat time after time with demands alone, without having some candy to share.

His return to Washington with "new ideas" but without real solutions only deepens the lack of confidence in the Israeli government. How many times can he discuss Netanyahu's difficult coalition situation with the president?

The Palestinians did not make the American envoy's life any easier, either. When they heard Israel's demand to hand over Hamas activists, some demanded that Israel extradite the soldiers who killed the three workers at Tarkumiya. They warned the Israelis that they consider their security approach to be merely an excuse for preventing progress, not a confidence-building condition.

The Palestinians, however, had done their homework. They focused their claims on three key areas which Israel will find it difficult to live with. They are demanding:

- That the three stages of redeployment, prior to the final-status agreement, amount to at least 80% of Judea and Samaria (as compared to 40% under Sharon's proposal and 51% in the Labor-Meretz proposal).

- A total cessation of building in the settlements.

- A different definition of "quality" areas: They propose that areas handed over to them should not only be contiguous, but should also enable them to expand their towns and villages in directions which would restrict Jewish settlements.

Special Ambassadors

Displeased with Eliahu Ben-Eliyash, his ambassador in Washington, Netanyahu has begun sending emissaries there on special assignments.

Two weeks ago, Sharansky went. Last week he sent Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to meet Madeleine Albright, to soften her up before Ross's visit. Netanyahu asked him to take maps to show the administration. Mordechai came back with the maps still folded. He did not discuss percentages — he discussed principles.

Now Sharansky is in Washington again. Perhaps he will succeed in softening the State Department's position, before the consultations Clinton plans to hold with the heads of his peace team.

When the talks with Ross and his team were well under way, Netanyahu sent Third Way leader, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, to meet with Arafat. He had intended to signal to the Americans — and perhaps also to Israelis — that even this party, which is considered to be the moderate wing of his coalition, supports his policy. Instead, Kahalani was photographed with Arafat in front of a picture of the Temple Mount, signaling exactly the opposite.

This embarrassment angered Ariel Sharon. In one of his conversations with Netanyahu, during the period when Netanyahu was ignoring him, Sharon basically said the following: "Listen, as long as you only insult me personally, as you have since the day after the elections, and as long as you know that I know that you're doing this, I will hold my peace. But when it affects something that I believe is a matter of principle, I will not remain silent."

This week, Sharon decided he'd had enough. On Sunday he had a one-on-one meeting with Ross that lasted two hours. On Monday he decided to boycott the decisive final meeting with Mordechai and leaders of the American team.

He was concerned that Netanyahu had decided to adopt only small parts of his plan; that he would transfer important areas to the Palestinians without limiting the extent of the redeployment, without reducing the level of expectations regarding the permanent settlement, without allowing sufficient time for the Palestinian commitment to peace to mature.

Sharon can't be accused of a lack of ingenuity. He signaled to Netanyahu that he should not be taken for granted and that he cannot be ignored on the issue of consultations. And he signaled to the NRP and the right wing that he can be relied upon on matters which they consider important.

Barking confrontation

This evening Clinton will return from his African tour and land directly in the commotion surrounding the Middle East. His African safari not just another sortie by Air Force One. He did not make the journey to apologize to the blacks who were forced into slavery. This was a well-needed vacation to help calm the American political system, following the recent accusations against him made by various women.

Last Friday, Madeleine Albright, in her conference call with US Jewish leaders, held a dress rehearsal of the speech she thinks the president should deliver, given deadlock in the peace process.

The reports of the conversation

in Israel had a decisively negative "spin," a leading American Jewish leader noted. He pointed a finger at those Jewish leaders who had leaked the conversation.

The conversation had taken place just before Shabbat. The leaders of the Orthodox organizations, who are usually identified as supporting the Likud, presumably had little if any time to tell anyone. Therefore, this source noted, the leaks had to have come from the government's opponents, who interpreted Albright's statements as being in line with their views.

However, in the view of this official, this stage of the game is characterized, above all, by a noisy confrontation. Washington is creating a perceived threat of pressure, even though whenever possible, administration officials stress that there is no American pressure. Albright has warned the Jewish community. Israel is gathering support on Capitol Hill. Washington is marking the hardliners who surround Netanyahu and enlisting Weizman's support. In Jerusalem, leaks are being initiated against Martin Indyk, who is allegedly out to get Netanyahu.

Even if the conflict with Washington is real and the reports of the administration's threats are serious, the government could be more sophisticated in its approach. The heavy weapons — approaching Congress, leaking information about administration officials — could be postponed to a time when the Americans actually make their initiative public, and it is still unclear if this will happen.

It would be better to act quietly, without arousing antagonism and turning the few American friends we still have against us, while we publicly stir their political stew as if it were our own.

הכזא מן אלדל

Limited impact on arms balance

ANALYSIS

By GORDANA KUKIC

BELGRADE (Reuters) - The UN arms embargo on Yugoslavia will have no immediate impact on the Kosovo crisis although fighting in Serbia's southern province prompted its imposition, diplomats said yesterday.

"The Security Council decision sends a diplomatic message to (Yugoslav President Slobodan) Milosevic but in practical terms this is cosmetic," a diplomatic source said.

The Security Council voted 14-0 for the embargo, with China abstaining, in a resolution which broadly echoed demands by the Contact Group of six major powers last month for talks between Milosevic and leaders of Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority.

The Contact Group threatened to tighten financial sanctions against Belgrade in a month's time if Milosevic did not make serious moves to restore autonomy to Kosovo.

The arms embargo reflected the UN's desire to contain the risk of a wider conflict in Kosovo between Serbian police, led by anti-terrorist units, and separatist guerrillas of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA).

At least 80 Albanians - including 25 women and children - have died over the last month in police assaults on KLA village strongholds in the mountains of central Kosovo.

There is a wide imbalance between Serbian and KLA firepower which the arms embargo will freeze in place.

Milosevic's anti-terrorist forces hit the ethnic Albanians with armored vehicles, heavy guns and Russian-made Hind ground attack helicopters.

The KLA, a largely unquantified force which has shown little tactical military competence, is armed mainly with assault rifles and rocket propelled grenades. It appears to rely on supplies of weapons smuggled from neighboring Albania proper.

A KLA officer interviewed by reporters this week said the guerrillas realized they lacked the muscle to tackle superior Serb forces head on and intended to continue their strategy of hit-and-run attacks on soft security targets.

Serbia has an arms industry of its own which can supply the weapons it needs to fight a guerrilla war in Kosovo if the situation deteriorates further and the KLA emerges as a serious force.

The UN imposed an arms embargo on ex-Yugoslavia between 1991 and 1995 to stem the flow of weapons to combatants in the independence wars fought with Serbia by the former republics of Croatia and Bosnia.

Its main effect was to deny essential weapons to Bosnian Muslims trying to break the siege of Sarajevo and capture huge swathes of territory lost to the Bosnian Serb Army.

Serbs in Bosnia continued to be reinforced with weapons, fuel, money and men from Yugoslavia while Bosnian Croats were supplied by Croatia.

The new embargo will mainly prevent Yugoslavia re-equipping its armed forces with modern high-technology weapons which its arms industry, crippled by economic sanctions, is no longer capable of producing.

SERBIAN

Continued from Page 1

tens of thousands of Serbs. Although fewer than one-tenth of its residents are ethnic Serbs, Kosovo is the site of some of the most revered Serbian historical and religious monuments. Many Serbs regard Kosovo as the cradle of their civilization and a symbol of the glory of their medieval kingdom.

That has contributed to the hysterical tone of rhetoric in Serbia. It has also made the chance of real progress in negotiations with Kosovo's Albanians remote, analysts say - if and when they occur.

Moreover, the Serbs have not acquiesced to Western demands that they withdraw paramilitary police forces from Kosovo hot spots. In fact, they appear to be dug in for the long haul. No prominent political voices in Serbia have questioned that policy.

"There is no political party with a rational and tolerant position on Kosovo," said Novak Prbicic, a retired Yugoslav diplomat who was ambassador to Albania. "They all calculate it would mean losing votes in the Serbian community." (The Washington Post)

UN imposes arms ban on Yugoslavia

By ANTHONY GOODMAN

UNITED NATIONS - The Security Council voted 14-0, with China abstaining, to impose late Tuesday an arms embargo on Yugoslavia to force a peaceful settlement in Serbia's troubled Kosovo province.

Kosovo, which has a 90 percent Albanian ethnic majority, was the scene of a recent crackdown by Yugoslav police against separatists in which at least 80 people were killed.

But speaking after the vote, Yugoslavia's Ambassador Vladislav Jovanovic rejected any involvement by the council in what he said were purely internal affairs.

"There is not, nor has there been, any armed conflict in Kosovo... Hence there is no danger of a spillover, there is no threat to peace and security" and no basis for invoking the mandatory provisions of the UN Charter, Jovanovic said.

No international bodies had intervened when police and troops carried out much larger operations in countries "defending themselves against terrorism and protecting their territorial integrity and sovereignty," he added.

The council resolution calls on the authorities in Belgrade and the leadership of the Kosovar Albanian community to enter into a meaningful dialogue without preconditions.

It also expresses support for "an enhanced status for Kosovo which would include a substantially greater degree of autonomy and meaningful self-administration."

Kosovo, regarded by Serbs as the cradle of their nation, church and culture, enjoyed autonomy within Serbia between 1974 and 1989. This was revoked by Slobodan Milosevic, then president of Serbia and now president of the rump Yugoslav state comprising only Serbia and Montenegro.

The resolution requires all states, "for the purposes of fostering peace and stability in Kosovo," to prevent the sale or supply to Yugoslavia, including Kosovo, of arms and all types of related material. The embargo will be monitored by a sanctions committee made up of all 15 council members.

The resolution also calls for action to

"prevent arming and training for terrorist activities" in Kosovo - a reference to armed separatist groups that receive weapons and money from sympathizers abroad.

The council warns of possible "additional measures" in the absence of progress toward a peaceful resolution of the Kosovo situation.

Russia, a traditional ally of the Serbs, had raised objections to parts of the resolution, sponsored by eight council members - the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Portugal and Sweden.

But Moscow was persuaded to vote for the draft as a result of some minor changes in the text and telephone contacts over the past 24 hours between US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov.

Russian deputy UN envoy Yuri Fedotov said his delegation supported the resolution on the understanding that "we are not talking about punishing anyone, in particular Belgrade, but rather of specific measures that are designed to prevent any mounting of tensions, to erect an obstacle to external terrorism and to foster the political process with a view to a speedy and lasting settlement."

Explaining his abstention, China's deputy UN representative, Ambassador Shen Guofang, said: "Many countries in the region are multi-ethnic. If the council is to get involved in a dispute without the request from the country concerned, it may create a bad precedent and have wider negative implications."

American UN envoy Bill Richardson said the council was "taking a clear stand for peace and security in the Balkans."

"We must avoid the mistakes of the past, when the international community waited too long before taking decisive action," he added, alluding to fears that an explosion in Kosovo could turn into a disastrous regional conflict.

British representative David Richmond said the resolution sent a message to Belgrade "that repression in Kosovo will not be tolerated by the international community; and to the Kosovar side that ter-

rorism - in whatever guise and for whatever end - is unacceptable."

The arms embargo responds to a call by a six-member ministerial contact group dealing with the Kosovo situation that met in London March 9 and in Bonn March 25 and urged the adoption of such a ban by the end of the month.

The resolution also urges the prosecutor of the UN war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia to begin gathering information related to the violence in Kosovo, that might fall within its jurisdiction.

The resolution says the Security Council will reconsider the arms embargo once Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who is to report every 30 days, certifies that Yugoslavia has fulfilled a number of requirements. These include: beginning a substantive dialogue with the Kosovar Albanians; withdrawal of special police units that spearheaded the recent crackdown; and allowing access to Kosovo by humanitarian organizations.

An arms embargo was first slapped on all parts of the former Yugoslavia in September 1991, when the federation was breaking apart amid bloodshed. The embargo was revoked after the signing of the Dayton peace accords in late 1995.

Yeltsin lobbies MPs on Kiriienko's nomination

By SERGEI SHARGORODSKY

MOSCOW (AP) - President Boris Yeltsin yesterday invited lawmakers to his country home for talks with his premier-designate Sergei Kiriienko in advance of a parliament vote on the nominee.

Communists and other factions in parliament have expressed reservations about Kiriienko, and had demanded consultations with Yeltsin before acting on the man nominated to lead a new government.

"You can see this as an answer to the parliament on the nomination of Kiriienko," said presidential spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky.

In the upper house of parliament, Speaker Yegor Stroyev said he expects a compromise to emerge from today's talks at the Russian government residence outside Moscow. The officials "will definitely come to an agreement," Stroyev said.

But the speaker of the lower house, Gennady Seleznyov, a Communist, said broader round-table talks are needed.

Yeltsin's invitation came after both houses of parliament

appealed to him for talks about Kiriienko, who was appointed acting prime minister last week following the dismissal of Viktor Chernomyrdin and the rest of the cabinet.

The Communists, the leading faction in the lower house, are seeking negotiations with Yeltsin on economic policy, cabinet nominations, and other issues before voting on Kiriienko.

A confirmation debate is scheduled for tomorrow, but Communists are threatening to drag out the process.

Kiriienko continued talks with

parliament factions yesterday, outlining his economic program to ultranationalists who promised to vote for him.

"I'm becoming more and more convinced that the program we're proposing can become the basis for joint effort," an upbeat Kiriienko said after the meeting.

He said he won't bow to hard-line pressure and ruled out making concessions on the composition of the government to win support from the Communist opposition.

"People have been trying to draw me into this unsuccessfully," he said. "I can say unambiguously

that it won't work. There won't be any trading of positions. Personnel issues in the government will have to be resolved not from the point of view of the political situation or personal relationships, but from the [ministers'] ability to implement the program quickly."

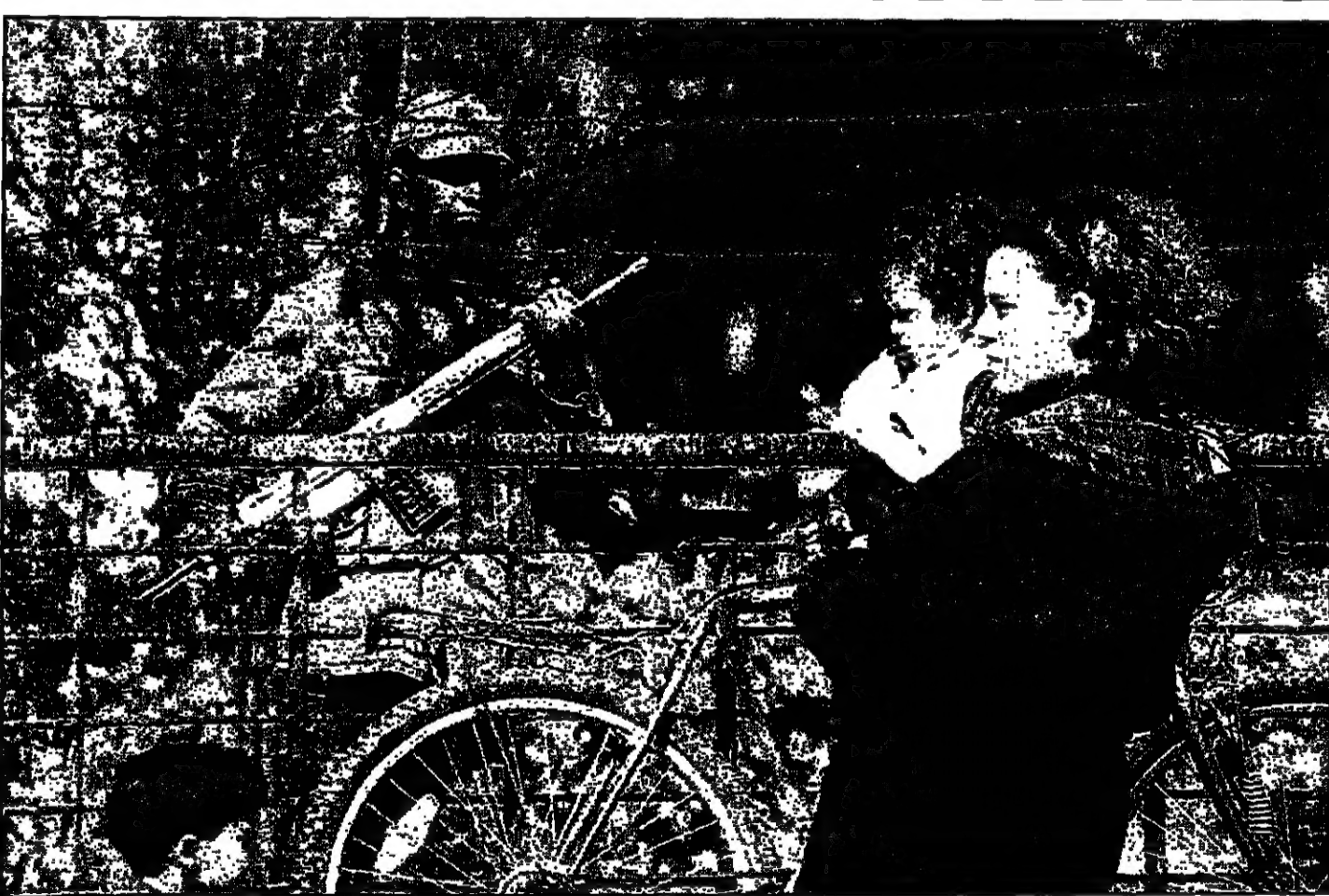
In his first major public policy statement since his nomination as prime minister last week, Kiriienko told the upper chamber of parliament, the Federation Council, that Russia's nascent economic recovery has stalled and a new push on reforms is needed to get it going again.

He called for continuing efforts to boost tax revenues and control government spending to limit borrowing.

"The key principal is to live within our means," Kiriienko said.

To stimulate the economy, Kiriienko called for tax reform and efforts to reschedule huge debts run up by companies. He said annual inflation this year won't exceed 10 percent.

The Duma yesterday passed a non-binding resolution calling on Yeltsin to withdraw Kiriienko's nomination.



Turkish prison standoff

A relative of a hostage holds her child while waiting for news in front of the Buca prison, in Izmir, Turkey, as a soldier stands guard yesterday. Inmates are holding 50 guards and officials hostage in several Turkish jails, as they demand that 10 comrades be sent back to Buca prison from other jails. (AP)

Irish PM holds talks with Sinn Fein

By ELAINE MONAGHAN

DUBLIN (Reuters) - Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern held hastily-called talks with Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams yesterday as pressure grew on Northern Irish peace negotiators to reach a deal by an April 9 deadline.

Ahern was due to fly to London later to meet British Prime Minister Tony Blair, while negotiations in Belfast were turning fractious for the second day in a row.

Britain and Ireland are sponsoring the talks in a bid to end nearly 30 years of bloodletting by gunmen at odds over the fate of British rule in Northern Ireland.

The governments believe this is the best chance for peace ever, and the parties are trying to reach

a deal despite a string of guerrilla shootings, bomb hauls north and south of the border, and public interparty feuding.

But the glaring differences between pro-British unionists and pro-Irish nationalists at the talks came into sharp focus in Belfast yesterday.

John Taylor, deputy head of the main pro-British Ulster Unionist Party, said talks were deadlocked because Dublin had not spelled out the wording of constitutional changes to be put to a referendum under a peace accord.

The Irish government has signalled it will change articles two and three in the constitution, which claim Northern Irish territory, as part of a peace accord.

Unionists are demanding Ireland rescind its claims com-

pletely and recognize Northern Ireland as British.

"They must move on articles two and three before we start negotiating on other issues," Taylor said.

Irish deputy foreign minister Liz O'Donnell responded by saying Taylor's remarks were particularly unhelpful.

She accused unionists of making "maximalist" demands while making only a minimalist response to Irish proposals on north-south bodies in the settlement.

In Dublin, Adams urged Blair to take steps to force unionists to compromise.

"We cannot expect the unionists, who perceive any change to be to their disadvantage, to voluntarily move from the narrow

ground in which they have stood for a very long time," he said. "If they won't do it voluntarily - and they won't in my view - then Mr. Blair has to rise to the challenge."

But he added that there are no immovable obstacles on the path to reaching a peace deal on April 9, saying: "We're into the endgame. We're in to make it work."

The final push for peace has sparked a flurry of top-level talks between London, Dublin, and Belfast and an increase in the personal involvement of Blair and Ahern.

Ahern's hour-long meeting with Adams followed talks by John Hume, leader of the Northern Ireland's main Roman Catholic party, with the Irish leader and with Blair.

Egypt arrests 'world savior'

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) - Police have arrested a preacher, and 29 of his followers, for allegedly claiming to be the savior of the world.

The police said yesterday that their officers had raided the home of Bahaa Eddin el-Aqad, near the Giza pyramids, while he was conducting a sermon on Monday.

El-Aqad, 49, has been detained in connection with a charge of heresy as his ideas reject the teachings of Islam's Prophet Mohammed, police said.

Seven women were among the 29 followers detained on the same charge.

El-Aqad has preached that he is al-Mahdi al-Muntazar, or the "awaited guided one," a figure whom many Moslems believe will appear before doomsday and restore the world to righteousness, police said.

Among his teachings were that a flood would engulf Egypt April 1-3, and that only his disciples would be saved by a passing ship.

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Kocharyan consolidates victory in Armenian poll

YEREVAN (Reuters) - The Central Elections Commission yesterday declared Armenia's prime minister and acting president Robert Kocharyan the winner of the former Soviet republic's presidential runoff election.

"According to the preliminary data, we can already say that Robert Kocharyan has won," said commission deputy chairman Ruben Manukyan.

Manukyan said Kocharyan was leading challenger Karen Demirchyan by about 59 to 41 percent of the vote with 99.44 of precincts counted.

The commission said turnout was 68.1% of

the country's 2.3 million voters.

Monday's runoff in the mountainous Trans-Caucasus republic was held after Kocharyan and Demirchyan finished first and second respectively in a first round of voting on March 16.

President Levon Ter-Petrosyan was forced to resign by opponents in February just 18 months into his second five-year term and special elections were held to replace him.

Kocharyan's chief spokesman, Aghvan Vartanyan, declared his candidate the victor. "We have won and won by a big margin," he said.

Demirchyan campaign chief Armen

Khachaturian blasted the election as illegitimate and repeated a list of abuses his side said occurred during voting. "This election was neither free nor fair," he said.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said yesterday in a preliminary report the election had been marked by irregularities but that they were not serious enough to have an impact on the result.

Some OSCE observers disagreed and said they thought the report had been far too soft. The Central Elections Commission is expected to release final preliminary results this morning.

Gun merchants target newest market: Kids

By SHARON WALSH

Despite growing concern in recent years about children shooting children, gun manufacturers and enthusiasts in the US are focusing more of their marketing resources on teenagers and younger children, according to groups that have studied gun violence and gun makers themselves.

Evidence of this marketing approach, prompted by a slumping market for firearms, is found in catalogues, gun club literature and in the statements of lobbyists for gun groups.

"Kids are the future of the sports we all love," declares the 1998 catalogue for New England Firearms, a gun maker. "Kids can make shooting and hunting come alive again."

Similarly, the National Shooting Sports Foundation distributes a pamphlet saying that "age is not the major yardstick. Some youngsters are ready to start at 10." It suggests a child is ready to deal with guns if the answer is "yes" to questions such as "Would you leave him alone in the house for two or three hours? Would you send him to the grocery store with a list and a \$20 bill?"

While federal law prohibits children from buying guns and rifles, the purpose of the campaigns is to introduce children to the notion of owning a firearm — and to then have their parents buy the gun.

Gun manufacturers argue that it makes good business sense to attract the next generation of gun buyers, but some anti-gun groups say the practice should receive new scrutiny in the wake of incidents like the tragic shooting at a school in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Gun production has declined in the US in recent years, to 3.8 million guns in 1996 from 4.4 million guns in 1989, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Officials say their primary market — white males — is saturated. Manufacturers tried, unsuccessfully, to market to women. And with hunting and gun hobbies seemingly on the wane, gun enthusiasts and manufacturers see children as the future.

"The future of the shooting sports and our Second Amendment will rest on the shoulders of our grandchildren — and theirs," said National Rifle Association President Marion Hammer, pictured in an NRA ad with her rifle and her young grandson. "That's why, as NRA president, my major

priority is to reach out to America's youth."

The Jonesboro case is under investigation, and there is no evidence that marketing guns to younger children is the reason for the shooting deaths of five people.

The two boys in Jonesboro stole the guns after breaking into a gun cabinet of a grandfather. But children in city centers and rural areas alike are exposed to a culture of guns that exists on television, in movies and in magazines and newspapers.

The NRA, the powerful gun lobbying and membership group, declined to talk about its efforts to bring young people into gun sports.

"This tragedy is so shocking to everyone in America, so startling," said Bill Powers, an NRA spokesman. "It's inconceivable that an 11-year-old and a 13-year-old could execute a plan to murder their classmates. It extends beyond any political debate and it would be inappropriate to comment right now."

"The NRA wants the image of a healthy, bonding experience to surround guns," said Kristen Rand, director of federal policy for the Violence Policy Center, a nonprofit group that researches firearms and violence and has studied the

marketing efforts. "But the motivation behind the programs is to make kids feel comfortable with guns."

Andrew Molchan, president of the National Association of Federally Licensed Firearms Dealers, said there is no point in blaming makers and sellers of guns.

"Firearms programs for children have been around for 100 years," Molchan said. "Why weren't children murdering children 100 years ago?... It serves no purpose whatsoever to rake up these old, left-wing chestnuts. A gun is just a tool."

Even people in the town of Jonesboro point out it is difficult for those who have never lived in a rural town, never hunted with their father or a favorite uncle or cousin, to understand how people there feel about guns. Many families there have guns, and their children never use them for violence.

David Rees, an attorney in Jonesboro, attended the funeral of Paige Ann Herring, 12, whose mother worked in his office for six years. "I'm just so full of emotion," Rees said afterward. "It was so sad... It's easy to say it's the guns... But that is so simplistic. Everybody wants a quick fix. There isn't one.

Here, hunting is a bonding experience," Rees said. "I grew up hunting with my father and grandfather. My Dad was duck hunting when he was 8 years old. I still enjoy the sport of hunting. Duck. Quail. Dove."

Arkansas has one of the highest death rates from guns of any state in the country, according to the Violence Policy Center. For children under 15 in the state, there are four deaths per 100,000 children. The national figure is 1.5 deaths per 100,000 children.

Guns are seen by many as part of the bonding experience throughout the country. The Boy Scouts of America, for example, offers merit badges for rifle and shotgun shooting, involving both marksmanship and gun safety.

Some parents said their children's interest in guns is so high they end up caving in to pressure. "Before my kids were born, I thought they would never own guns," said Knowles Harper, the mother of Jake Harper, 10, of McLean, Virginia. "Then you realize they are bringing their peanut butter sandwiches into the shapes of guns and so I thought, 'Well it is something they are interested in.' I guess I gave in," she said of the 8-year-old Jake who has owned for less than

a year. The gun industry's efforts to interest children in firearms takes many forms, including an NRA mascot called Eddie Eagle, gun camps for children, and ads by manufacturers. "Those sure were the good times — just you, dad and his Smith & Wesson."

The NRA also promotes camps and shooting contests for junior NRA members. It has a magazine just for teenagers. In June, actor Charlton Heston will likely become the new president of the NRA. He publicly has pledged to raise \$100 million over three years to promote guns to children like his six-year-old grandson and to elect a pro-gun president and Congress.

Eddie Eagle, the NRA's big bird mascot, appears at schools, shopping malls, Wal-Marts and in a cartoon video to tell young children not to touch a gun if they find one. He does a little dance in the video, has his picture on school lunch boxes, backpacks and posters. Eddie Eagle is not pictured holding a gun.

In her 1995 address before the American Legion, the NRA's Hammer described the Eddie Eagle program this way: "Youngsters learn safety but they also learn respect for guns."

Gun adversaries say Eddie

Eagle's real purpose is similar to that of the now-gone Joe Camel, not to provide safety lessons about guns, but to make children want guns.

"In some ways, it's like the alcohol and tobacco industries," said Kim Wade, assistant general counsel of the Children's Defense League. "It's very seductive. Some of it is aimed at parents, showing a gun on the bedside table and saying that a gun in your home keeps your children safe.... All the facts show that guns in homes are dangerous to kids."

Groups such as the Violence Policy Center and the American Academy of Pediatrics say gun-safety programs don't work for curious youngsters, who often are impulsive and whose imaginations are fed by gun violence on television. The answer, they say, is fewer guns and guns that are safely locked away.

"The image that keeps coming to me is a Tom Sawyer picture," said Katherine Kauffer Christoffel, a pediatrician and medical director of the Handgun Epidemic-Lowering Plan Network, describing the Jonesboro incident. "If (the boys) had had rocks or a slingshot, maybe these girls wouldn't have died." (The Washington Post)

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Solomon the judge

A DAY IN PART 15: Law & Order in Family Court by Judge Richard Ross. New York, Four Walls Eight Windows. 160 pp. \$22.

By Ralph Amelan

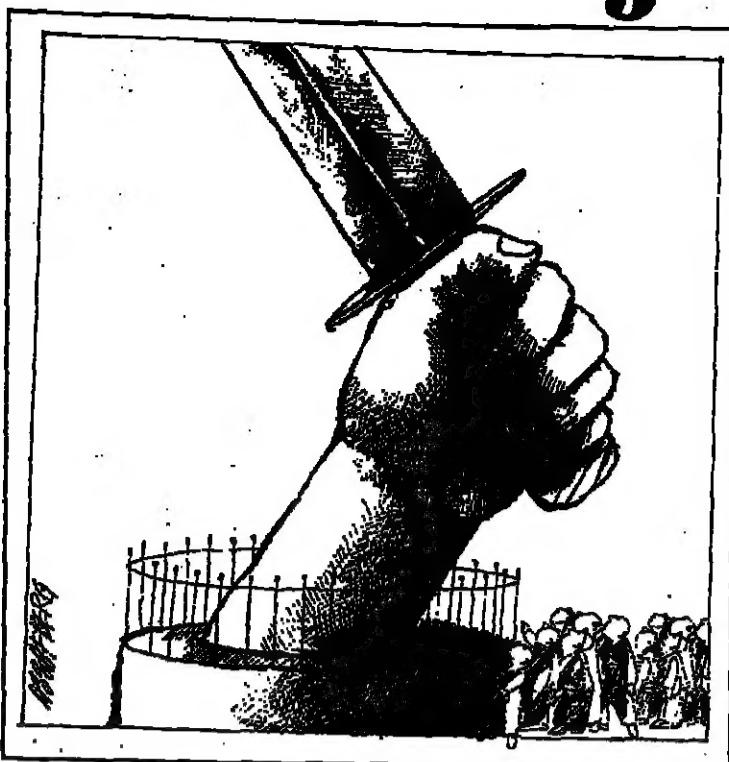
Here you are, sitting as a judge in Family Court in the Bronx. Two women appear before you. Both claim custody of a child. Both claim to be the child's mother. Do you reach for your sword and offer to cleave the child in two? Not these days you don't. Judging, it appears, has evolved somewhat since King Solomon's days.

The star of "The Case of the Two Moms," as well as "The Case of the Clinging Boy," "The Case of the Evil Sisters" and "The Case of the Lesbian Softball Team" is the judge himself. Richard Ross offers a fascinating bench's eye glimpse of justice at work among the broken and warring families of New York, and reveals where the courts can make a difference, and where they are helpless.

The basics that rule the judge's day are the enormous caseload—over 60 is par for the course—and the need to decide each case in the best interests of the child.

The caseload is not just heavy but varied. In an average day the matters include custody applications, termination of parental rights, juvenile trials, sentencing, protection orders, and child abuse. Some applications are formal, the judge's order a formality. Some involve intricate problems of fact and law, requiring conscientious thought. All have to be disposed of fast. Decisions must be made, and the case either completed or moved on to the next stage. The cardinal mistake is to let a case drift in a Saragosa Sea of indecision, while children suffer. The judge needs to have as much information as possible, but, as the author puts it, "knowing when to decide is as important a part of the craft of judging as making the right decision."

The judge has to be alert and prepared to intervene. The author, on his own initiative, ordered a welfare investigation when a boy suddenly refused to continue visits to his



divorced father, despite there being no allegations against dad by the mother. The hunch proved right: the father was later charged with sodomizing his son. Even when all the parties are happy with existing parenting arrangements, the judge cannot let their consent be his. He must step in if the child's interests are being ignored.

The author finds the primacy of the child's welfare makes his task easier. He doesn't have to balance competing interests, or worry about how said it would be to cut a drug-abusing mother out of the child's life when she is pleading for one last chance. Family preservation is important, making sure the child is safe is doubly so.

The book takes the form of a description of Judge Ross's typical day, based on real cases. As each case, reeking of neglect, poverty, failure, tragedy and even wickedness, winds its way through Part 15 ("part" is New York City Family Court jargon for courtroom) the general impression created ought to be gloomy.

But it isn't, for several reasons. Firstly, the author writes crisply and clearly, pacing his narrative well and

leaving his account with a dry, ironic wit. When writing of a brother sodomizing and raping his sister, he notes: "[The respondent] told the shrink, and anyone else who would listen, that the sex was consensual, though he conceded that he had since learned, from his fellow detainees at the juvenile detention center, that it was wrong to have sex with one's sister."

He also resists the temptation, rightly, of making wise and witty remarks at the expense of those appearing before him: mocking the afflicted is easy, but cruel.

Secondly, there is some prospect of a happy end in many cases. Children are removed from bad homes, young thugs are sent to jail, beloved foster parents get to adopt their charges. Judge Ross doesn't follow up cases: he has no time to discover if he made a difference or if his judgments were in vain. But at least there is room to hope, thanks to the court.

Lastly, there is the book's inherent fascination. Autobiographies of successful advocates are common; views of the court from the perspective of

the bench are less so. Even then, a judge can surrender to pontification and opinionated comment, and bore more than he enlightens. Here, you get a feel for what it must be like to have a judge's responsibilities, and how he or she sees the world of the courtroom.

There is just one problem with *A Day in Part 15*. In all the cases Judge Ross describes, save for two, there is not even a hint of the parties' ethnic or economic background. The people in his court are only occasionally identified by name, and appear as he has to see them: a bundle of facts and proved behaviors floating in a social vacuum.

The author never explains why this is so, though it is easy to guess the reason. A judge cannot take race or family finances into account in his decision, and frequent references to them in the book would raise doubts in some quarters as to what factors he deems relevant. Excising such matters is his way of telling us that they are of no account to him in determining a case.

This is a proper, even laudable, attitude to take, but it left me feeling uneasy. You do not have to be a genius to work out that many, if not all, the parties appearing before him are poor blacks or Hispanics. Not mentioning these facts does not make them go away, and the reader is left with an incomplete picture of what is going on.

I have no desire to perpetuate stereotyping, but a few paragraphs explaining the author's stance would not have gone amiss. Judge Ross should not be hailed over the coals for his omission, though: race is an envenomed subject, and dwelling on ethnic background is open to suspicion. This lively book will find a ready audience among lawyers, not just those whose field is family law, social workers and people who want to learn more about the world of the judge.

Oh, and the Case of the Two Moms? Well, the child was not an infant, but 15 years old, the two women were sisters, and the natural mother had in the past consented to the termination of her parental rights in favor of the child's aunt.

Judging is simple, really. When you know how.

The force that blasts

REIKI FIRE: New Information about the Origins of the Reiki Power, A Complete Manual by Frank Arjava Petter, Wisconsin. Lotus Light Publications. 126pp. \$14.95.

By Nachman Spiegel

For the skeptical, the idea that the simple laying of hands on another or on oneself may be conducive to many levels of healing, may sound like one more preposterous New Age pretension. As much delight as their disdain may afford them, it carries increasingly less currency at such outposts of conventionality as Boston's Beth Israel Hospital, the Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, the Marin General Hospital, the Tucson Medical Center, and the Portsmouth Regional Hospital in New Hampshire. According to an article in the Winter 1997 edition of *Reiki News* by William Lee Rand, founder of the International Center for Reiki Training in Michigan, "Reiki is beginning to gain acceptance as a meaningful and cost-effective way to improve patient care."

Frank Arjava Petter's *Reiki Fire* is one of many recent books that aim to tell how one Mikao Usui, a Japanese born in 1865, embarked on a quest which led to the rediscovery of certain ancient Buddhist healing techniques. "Rei," explains Petter, means holy, spirit, mystery, gift, nature spirit or invisible spirit, and the character "Ki" means energy, nature scene, talent and feeling. The condensed version of the concepts is more often than not summarized as "spiritually guided universal life energy."

It is the same Ki one encounters in Qigong, Tai Chi, or in what they call "prana" in India. It would be fair to say it's what Dylan Thomas was referring to when he spoke of "the force that through the green fuse drives the flowers" that blasts the roots of trees...

Increasing controversy now revolves around the story of how Usui came to perceive Reiki and to whom he passed on his legacy. Observes Petter: "The world of Reiki is in turmoil today. One school doesn't accept the other school as genuine or original, and the situation between various Reiki teachers in North America and Europe borders on war. As if Reiki could ever belong to a country, a school, a concept or even an individual!"

Yet he goes much further than suggesting that everyone is at least



Mikao Usui

partly right. *Reiki Fire* presents evidence that challenges assumptions long-held by what he calls the "Western Reiki Movement." This school adheres to the story that Usui taught and named a successor, Hayashi, who did the same in turn for Mrs. Hawayo H. Takata, a Japanese American who was instrumental in introducing Reiki to the West.

Where the chronicle turns problematic is when it claims Usui studied at the University of Chicago School of Divinity and embraced Christianity. At the time Usui was supposed to have been in the windy city, there was no such school. Nor is there any hard proof of Usui's alleged religious shift. Usui's roots were and remained steadfastly Buddhist. Takata, it seems, introduced the elements of Christian spirit in order to make Reiki more palatable to an America that at one time couldn't swallow anything that smacked of Japanese influence.

Since Petter is thoroughly motivated by a spirit of reconciliation, he does not say anything to negate

the Usui-Hayashi-Takata connection. He does, however, show that there were others close to Usui who both carried on his work and challenged the idea that Hayashi was the sole bona fide successor.

A dispute now looms over the attempt by Mrs. Takata's granddaughter to apply a trademark to the Usui System of Healing.

Acrimony of this sort never entered the realm charted by Usui. That it has, causes Petter consternation and makes him all the more determined to show how accessible and valuable a resource Reiki can be. While other widely sold books on Reiki venture into realms that would be deemed too far out for an *X-Files* episode, *Reiki Fire* sticks to a practical, no-frills approach.

Even so, it isn't likely to appeal to those uninterested in anything beyond empirical science.

Petter cannot understand why anyone would fear such potential. He stresses that Reiki is of no use for harmful purposes. The emerging probabilities are that it may well ameliorate some suffering.

Narrowing the gap of 400-1

THE WEALTH AND POVERTY OF NATIONS: Why Some Are So Rich and Some So Poor by David S. Landes. New York, Norton. 512 pp. \$30.

By Hans Knight

On an earth that is arguably closer to general peace than at any point in its history, there looms the deadly threat of unparalleled wealth confronting abysmal poverty.

The yawning and perplexing chasm between the haves and the have-nots—and how it determines the rocky journeys of humankind—demands exploration and amplification.

Among the amplifiers, few should command closer attention than David S. Landes. He is the author of *Revolution in Time* and *The Unbound Prometheus*. He is also Coolidge Professor of History Emeritus at Harvard University. The

Wealth and Poverty of Nations is a hefty book and understandably so.

In his first sentence, the author declares that he aims "to do world history." This is no small chore. By the time he is done, he has traced and analyzed, with near-Sherlock Holmesian acuity, the economic, social and cultural progress (and the lack of it) of five continents over a couple of millennia.

Beneath the cold economic statistics boils the human drama. The strong seek to conquer the weak. Vast armies and fleets prowled perilous lands and oceans in quest of gold, jewels, spices and slaves. The Portuguese, the Dutch, the Spaniards, the British, the French colonize great chunks of the Americas, the East Indies and Africa. The Crusaders scourge the lands of Islam in the name of Christianity, and the Muslims fight back with equal ferocity in honor of Allah.

With all its brutality, imperialism over the centuries spawns industrial

and scientific advances for the winners. But, as an unintended by-product, the losers also benefit to some extent. In India, the British build railways; in Africa, the French and Belgians set up water projects for local farmers. The best and the brightest, at least a few of them, go off to London and Paris to study the very arts and crafts of politics and diplomacy—as well as modern armaments—that eventually help them speed the exodus of the imperial powers from their soil.

Yet the gap between the very rich and the abjectly poor, Landes points out, has not narrowed. The difference in per capita income between Switzerland and the world's poorest nation, Mozambique, is 400-to-1; 250 years ago, the difference between Europe and China and India was only 2-to-1.

What's to be done to avert what Landes calls the biggest threat to the world's peace and prosperity? The best hope, he asserts, thumbing his

nose at today's "politically correct" thinkers, rests in Eurocentricity. "As the historic record shows, for the last thousand years, Europe (the West) has been the prime mover of development and modernity," he writes.

For selfish as well as moral reasons, he believes, the rich must help the poor. But "the most successful cure for poverty come from within. Foreign aid can help, but like windfall wealth, can also hurt. It can discourage effort and plant a crippling sense of incapacity.... No, what counts is work, thrift, honesty, patience, tenacity. To people haunted by misery and hunger, that may seem like selfish indifference. But at bottom, no empowerment is so effective as self-empowerment."

This book finds a brilliant and wise historian at the top of his game. There is a bit of intellectual sprawl, here and there, to daunt the general reader. But this is a minor flaw amid a feast of stimulating and nourishing fare. (Baltimore Sun)

BOOK BYTES

HALDOR Laxness, winner of the 1955 Nobel Prize for Literature, died in his native Iceland in February at the age of 96. In his Nobel acceptance speech Laxness, whose original name was Halldor Gudjonsson, said, "It is a great good fortune for an author to be born into a nation so steeped in centuries of poetry and literary tradition. An Icelandic writer cannot survive without constantly having the ancient books in his thoughts." But as a young man of 21, Laxness had yet to appreciate his heritage. "I have nothing to learn from them, those old Icelandic fogies," he then wrote, meaning the authors of the great sagas. Throughout his life Laxness was chopping and changing. His short-lived embrace of Catholicism was reflected in *The Great Weaver from Kashmir* (1927), his first major novel. Next he adopted socialism as his creed, which he extolled in a book of radical essays called *The Book of the People* (1929). In the 1930s he wrote a trilogy of novels devoted to contemporary Icelandic life. In the '40s and '50s he turned his hand to historical novels, including *The Happy Warrior* (1952), which was set in the Viking age. And finally he returned to religion as a theme in *Paradise Reclaimed* (1960), about an Icelandic involvement with Mormonism, and *Christianity at Glacier* (1968), a strange novel that examines human and animal lives. Apart from his numerous novels, Laxness wrote poetry, memoirs and eight plays. He is credited with "placing Iceland in the midst of the world." A number of his books have been translated into English by Magnus Magnusson.

FREDERICK FORSYTH, whose book *The Day of the Jackal* nearly killed off Charles DeGaulle (fictionally, that is) was recently over-

heard considering the chances of an assassin taking the life of President Saddam Hussein. He said the job was "damned nearly impossible." Saddam lives in bunkers 60 m. underground and won't even see his sons without them being strip-searched first. Forsyth added, "[His assassination] would be a good thing but there is no chance."

A MOVE to erect a statue of Oscar Wilde in London has temporarily foundered for lack of funds, etc. The committee led by Sir Jeremy Isaacs has so far raised only £110,000 pounds from its self-set target was £175,000. The proposed design by sculptor Maggi Hambling of a smoking Wilde emerging from a block of Brazilian granite was attacked by critics for not reflecting the playwright's true character and grandeur. Wilde's grandson, Merlin Holland, is pleased with the current state of affairs. "Oscar would have hated something on a plinth looking down on the figures which adorn our parks, one could almost wish that we had killed off the noble art completely. To see the statues of our departed... adds a new horror to death."

BRITISH-AMERICAN poet Denise Levertov, dead at 74, published over 30 volumes of verse between her first, *The Double Image* (1946), and her last, *Sands of the Well* (1996). Her father was a Russian Jew who became an Anglican priest, and her mother came from the Welsh hills. She grew up "imbibing Hassidic mysticism and Welsh folklore." Levertov was an anti-Vietnam War activist who went to Hanoi, and was much in demand for her readings of her own poetry. (David Brauner)

HARDCOVER Fiction

1. *The Street Lawyer* by John Grisham. (Dutton \$27.95.) A young lawyer discovers his prestigious firm's dirty secret.
2. *Pandora* by Anne Rice. (Knopf \$19.95.) A 200-year-old vampire recounts her experiences.
3. *Paradise* by Toni Morrison. (Knopf \$25.) A small Black utopia in rural Oklahoma experiences tragedy and regeneration when it encounters the real world.
4. *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier. (Atlantic Monthly \$24.) A Confederate soldier journeys home to meet an old love.
5. *Homeport* by Nora Roberts. (Putnam \$23.95.) An art expert's troubles lead her to seek counsel from a thief.
6. *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden. (Knopf \$25.) The life of a young woman in prewar Kyoto.
7. *Blood Work* by Michael Connelly. (Little Brown \$23.95.) A retired FBI agent undertakes to solve the murder of an ailing woman's sister.
8. *Singing in the Cornfield* by Bobbie Moore Campbell. (Putnam \$24.95.) A talk-show producer returns to her old neighborhood to help her grandmother.
9. *Black and Blue* by Anna Quindlen. (Random House \$23.) After her husband turns violent, a woman flees to Florida with her young son.
10. *Sudden Mischievous* by Robert B. Parker. (Putnam \$22.95.) The private eye Spenser comes to the aid of his girlfriend's former husband, a shady businessman.

HARDCOVER Non-fiction

1. *Talking to Heaven* by James Van Praagh. (Dutton \$22.) A "world-famous medium" discusses communication with the other side.
2. *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt. (Scribner \$24.) An Irish-American recalls his childhood amid the miseries of Limerick.
3. *Spin Cycle* by Howard Kurtz. (Free Press \$25.) A journalist reports on how the Clinton propaganda machine deals with scandals and the press.
4. *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom. (Doubleday \$19.95.) A sports writer tells of his weekly visits to his old college mentor.
5. *The Millionaire Next Door* by Thomas J. Stanley and William D. Danko. (Longstreet \$22.) Wealthy Americans have seven characteristics in common.
6. *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt. (Random House \$23.) Mysterious life in Savannah, Ga.
7. *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer. (Villard \$24.95.) An account of the ascent of Mount Everest in 1996, the deadliest season in history.
8. *The Long Hard Road Out of Hell* by Marilyn Manson with Neil Strauss. (Farrar/Strout \$24.) The memoirs of the inefable rock star.
9. *The Man Who Listens to Horses* by Monty Roberts. (Random House \$23.) The memoirs of a professional horse trainer.
10. *Conversations with God: Book 1* by Neale Donald Walsch. (Putnam \$19.95.) The author addresses questions of good and evil, guilt and sin.

PAPERBACK Fiction

1. *The Partner* by John Grisham. (Dell \$7.99.) The pursuit of \$50 million stolen by a Mississippi lawyer.
2. *Here on Earth* by Alice Hoffman. (Berkley \$13.) Returning to her Massachusetts hometown after 19 years, a woman encounters her old love.
3. *Evening Class* by Maeve Binchy. (Dell \$7.50.) Secrets, aspirations, and passions surface during a course in Italian at a Dublin school.
4. *Chromosome* by Robin Cook. (Berkley \$7.50.) The missing liver of a corpse floating in a river may provide clues to a criminal's murder.
5. *The Ranch* by Danielle Steel. (Dell \$7.50.) Three women who were college roommates come to terms with themselves at a Wyoming resort.
6. *The Maze* by Catherine Couder. (Jove \$7.50.) A woman, determined to locate her sister's killer, finds herself to be his new target.
7. *Small Town Girl* by LaVyrre Spencer. (Jove \$7.50.) A country music star, returning to her hometown, finds a new life.
8. *Public Secrets* by Nora Roberts. (Bantam \$6.50.) The troubled yet romantic life of the illegitimate daughter of a rock idol.
9. *The Genesis Code* by John Case. (Ballantine \$6.99.) A detective's sister and nephew are two of the victims in a series of mysterious deaths.
10. *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks. (Warner Vision \$5.99.) A World War II veteran meets an old flame.

PAPERBACK Non-fiction

1. *James Cameron's Titanic* by Ed W. Marsh. Photographs by Douglas Kirkland. (Harper Perennial \$20.) A lavishly illustrated account of the making of the film.
2. *A Night to Remember* by Walter Lord. (Bantam \$5.99.) A historian's account of the Titanic disaster.
3. *Leonardo DiCaprio: Modern-Day Romeo* by Grace Catalano. (Laurel-Leaf/Dell \$4.99.) The life of the film actor.
4. *Under the Tuscan Sun* by Frances Mayes. (Broadway \$13.) A celebration of the Italian countryside by a poet.
5. *The Color of Water* by James McBride. (Riverhead \$12.) A Black writer and musician recalls growing up with his white mother.
6. *The Leonardo DiCaprio Album* by Brian J. Robb. (Plenus/Publishers Group West \$15.95.) A biography.
7. *The Night Lives On* by Walter Lord. (Avon \$5.99.) A historian looks at the Titanic disaster.
8. *A Child Called "It"* by Dave Pelzer. (Health Communications \$9.95.) The autobiography of a man who survived his mother's abuse.
9. *Leonardo DiCaprio: A Biography* by Nancy Krulik. (Archway/Pocket \$4.50.) The life of the actor.
10. *Anatomy of the Spirit* by Caroline Myss. (Three Rivers \$14.) The importance of holistic "energy" medicine.

PAPERBACK Miscellaneous

1. *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff ... and It's All Small Stuff* by Richard Carlson. (Hyperion \$8.95.) How to enjoy life much more and contribute to the world we live in.
2. *The Beanie Baby Handbook* 1998 by Les Fox and Sue Fox. (West Highland \$6.95.) A new edition and a guide for collectors of the toys.
3. *Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution* by Robert C. Atkins. (Avon \$6.50.) Ways to lose weight and achieve a healthy body.
4. *Leonardo by Grace Catalano.* (Dell \$7.95.) A scrapbook of photographs and text about film actor Leonardo DiCaprio.

HARDCOVER Miscellaneous

1. *The 9 Steps to Financial Freedom* by Suze Orman. (Crown \$23.) Ways to manage your money for now and in the future.
2. *Simple Abundance* by Sarah Ban Breathnach. (Warner \$17.95.) Advice for women seeking to improve the way they look at themselves.
3. *Don't Worry, Make Money* by Richard Carlson. (Hyperion \$15.95.) Ways to achieve a more enjoyable and profitable life.
4. *Eat Right 4 Your Type* by Peter J. D'Adamo with Catherine Whitney. (Putnam \$22.95.) Diets to suit each of the four blood types.

The New York Times

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'Calamity' or common destiny?

Land Day thankfully passed quietly in Israel on Monday, with the annual remembrance of six Arab demonstrators killed by policemen opening fire in 1976 marked by peaceful rallies and processions.

What was different this time was the connection made by Arab protesters between Land Day and the State of Israel's 50th anniversary. Large segments of the Israeli Arab population insist that the state's celebration of 50 years of independence does not include them, and they have chosen instead to stress that a half century has passed since what they term "A-Nakbah" — "the Calamity" — befell them.

The related protests and commemorations, which are expected to grow in intensity from now to May 15, should not be entirely ignored. But there are a number of aspects involved that need to be addressed.

First of all, as many Israeli Arabs themselves admit — too often only "off the record" — they do have reasons to celebrate the creation of the State of Israel. The condition of the Arabs in Israel is far better than that of their brethren in the other countries of the Middle East, by virtually any measure — economic progress, health, education, life expectancy and basic civil rights.

Most of them have no intention of renouncing their Israeli citizenship or their participation in civic life in Israel, and only ask to improve their circumstances within existing structures.

On the other hand, it should be said that Israel has not fully applied the message in its Declaration of Independence, in which it extends a hand to the minority communities, asking them to assist in building the country. There has been systematic discrimination against Arabs, especially in employment and in government allocations. Arab local councils regularly receive less funding than their Jewish counterparts, as evidenced by the many Arab villages that still have open sewers.

A recent petition to the High Court of Justice noted that the Religious Affairs Ministry allocates only 1.86 percent of its annual budget of NIS 1.5 billion to Arab communities, even though Arabs comprise nearly 20% of the country's population. Israeli Arabs are also extremely underrepresented in the higher ranks of the civil service.

These examples and others are problematic for more than one reason. Living up to the creed of being a "Jewish and democratic" sovereign state requires acting in a sovereign manner. This means extending equal rights and privileges to all, even while the state maintains Jewish symbols and remains the national home of the Jewish people.

On the practical level, a continuing and even

growing gap between different ethnic communities in Israel carries the danger of leading to an outburst of anger against the state and identification with anti-Israel sentiments that can cause much damage. The greatest loss to the country would be a continuing spread of the antagonism towards the state being expressed by some Druse and Beduin youth, compounded among the Beduin by a rise in Islamic fundamentalism and identification with Palestinian nationalism.

The connections between the Zionist movement and the Druse and Beduin communities, symbolized in covenants reached with the traditional Druse and Beduin communal heads, go back decades and are among the nation's important assets. Many Druse and Beduin serve with distinction in the IDF. It is painful to hear them now claim that they only receive equal treatment in military graveyards. Their requests to receive a proper share of infrastructure, housing, schools and public services should be respected.

As for the "Nakbah," there is cause to admit honestly that the events of 50 years ago involved painful losses and dislocations for many Israeli Arabs, including a number who were dispossessed of property in Israel by various legalistic devices. Denying the past does not serve any positive purpose. However, what should be guarded against are attempts to make these point overshadow all of the state's accomplishments, or far worse, to equate it with the horrors of the Holocaust.

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's visit this week to Anne Frank House is certainly welcome in this regard — if he succeeds, as he has pledged, to pass on the significance and uniqueness of the Holocaust's enormity to his people.

Unfortunately, one cannot be sure of this. On leaving the museum, Arafat said: "This is why I worked with my peace partner, [Yitzhak] Rabin, so it would not happen to our children and the next generation."

Is Arafat saying that gas chambers and crematoria in pursuit of genocide are an option if the peace process fails? They certainly are not in Israel's arsenal; are they in his? Such ill-conceived remarks on Arafat's part do little to allay the suspicions of skeptics.

Nor should the grievances of Israeli Arabs ever be allowed to encourage any tendencies among the Arabs of Galilee or the Negev to demand secession from Israel. On the contrary, making efforts to ensure their rights within Israel should strengthen their identification with the state. If enough progress is made in this direction, it might eventually be possible to arrange for responsibilities — such as national service for those who do not serve in the IDF — to go along with the rights.



Mantra of concessions

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

policy predominated in the Lebanon.

It took two years for Levine to train his men not to wait like sitting ducks in their fortified bunkers, but to revert instead to the traditional Israeli method of using one's initiative to seize the offensive. The recent tactics of snaring Hizbullah gangs out to overrun Israeli positions has thwarted the terrorists, and caused them heavy casualties.

Nowhere was this made clearer

Israeli leaders are seeking to deliver the Golan lock, stock, and barrel to Syria

than a fortnight ago, when a 30-strong Hizbullah gang attacked an Israeli command post. With great fanfare, the terrorists produced video footage of one of their men planning a flag near the Israeli position. What they failed to report was that unlike in the past, they refrained from launching a full-scale attack in the wake of this "triumph." Fearful of being killed, they sent a four-man team to test the defenses. Three of them died in Israeli cross-fire. The rest fled.

The pattern of IDF fighters successfully ambushing their would-be ambushers has damaged the terrorists' self-confidence and harmed their morale.

Hizbullah has increasingly reverted to the use of long-range mortar and rocket attacks, a setback to their vaunted self-image as being brave, attacking warriors. So much so that this week, in a desperate effort to prove they still hold the initiative and are a force to be reckoned with, they showed their "muscle" by killing six Lebanese civilians in a roadside bomb attack.

WHY did the IDF suddenly revert to its historic, heroic record of defending the Jewish state? It stems from Levine's pure professionalism. He is one of the few generals who has not had his initiative castrated by the insidious politicization which has crept into the army.

Searching for serenity

HELEN SCHARY MOTRO

Tune into *Thana* and you come away wanting a Prozac. Listen to mud-slinging on radio talk shows and get vertigo. Open the newspaper and take cover.

Is there anywhere left to escape bombardment? Does a refuge of tolerance still exist?

I know of a place where the motto is live and let live. Unlike and not far away. But like in the fairy tales, sacrifices must be made in order to reach it. Specifically: you have to rise from your warm bed at the crack of dawn, and, on top of that, be willing to get your shoes full of sand.

Stretching from Rishon LeZion until Caesarea the seashore has blossomed into an early morning runway, busy as an international airport. Agnes Keleti, who won five Olympic gold medals in gymnastics in '52 and '56, is still doing her morning calisthenics on the Herzliya beach; she is joined daily by an ever-increasing number of walkers, joggers, and gymnasts plopping through the sand. Each at his own pace, each in her own style.

A bearded fellow with head thrown back and arms spread-eagled singing a Puccini aria in a slightly off-key tenor raises not a single eyebrow. In their bones people feel Demosthenes shouting to the waves with his mouth full of pebbles, even if they have

Who would deny envying them their illusion of tranquility and freedom?

never heard of him.

The dress code ranges from NIS 25 warm-up pants on special at the souk to the sleekest après-ski outfits not off the boutique shelves of Davos. It is not unusual to see a barrel-chested old Neptune stripped to the waist doing pushups beside a recent army dischargee hard at work on his pecs. The "polar bears of Tel-Aviv" jump into the Mediterranean waves every morning at dawn, summer or winter, rain or shine. Fishermen silently cast their nets off Jaffa.

Earnest gaudy men huff by in training suits they never would have dreamed of being seen in before their first heart attack. Young women with the muscled calves of long-distance runners whiz past determined to conquer the morning kilometers, as if that were the only easy battle of the long combative day ahead.

People stride onwards, purposefully swinging their arms, their gaze upon the faraway horizon. With the easy companionship of buddies they nod greetings to one another as they pass, even though they may never exchange one word. There's the woman in the tie-dyed caftan; there's the man with the New York Police Department cap.

DEPENDING on when they have to show up for work, people arrive at the same time slot every day: the six-fifties, the seventies, the eighties. Retirees tend to show up after eight, carrying their little fold-up chairs and newspapers to make a morning of it after their constitutional.

Most people arrive solo, though there are a few couples, like the one which takes turns carrying the umbrella against the sun. Buddies give each other a quick clap on the shoulder before going off to jog in silence for the next 45 minutes.

The most frequent companions are not human beings, though, but dogs.

Although human couples sometimes appear without one another for a spell, or even break up altogether, a dog-and-master team exhibits consistent loyalty. The blond woman wouldn't dream of jogging without her matching golden retriever, nor the man with the crooked leg minus the frisky terrier who never tires of shadow boxing with the waves.

You can tell the regulars: they all invariably wear hats and non-nonsense expressions of those who mean business. And by the slightly leathery look of their skin. One quality unites them all: the unmistakable camaraderie of the fortunate.

For while the shell-shocked viewers of last night's *Popolitica* huddle under their electric blankets and beg their alarm clocks for five more minutes of snooze, while the politicians think up invectives for the morning's Knesset session as they spritz out their shaving cream — the truly lucky of this world are watching rosy-fingered dawn conquer the endless sky over the Western horizon.

And who's to say they aren't the ones with the right idea? And who would deny envying them their illusion of tranquility and freedom? Even if it does disappear by 9 a.m., along with the morning fog.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IDF KIPPOT

Sir, — Yusef Goell, while disassociating himself from Shlomo Gazit's racist remark, says that he sees the wearing of a "knitted kippa" by IDF soldiers as problematic ("Gazit's gaffe," March 9), calling it a "politically identifiable insignia."

In fact, those who wear knitted kippot vote for all the major Jewish political parties across the spectrum. Those who make assumptions about

the political allegiances of knitted-kippa-wearers are very likely to be mistaken.

If Goell is actually implying that public expression of religious belief is inappropriate in the IDF, I contend that in the army of a Jewish state, those soldiers not wearing kippot are also making a public statement concerning their religious outlook.

Goell expresses concerns about

the willingness of "knitted kippa" soldiers to follow orders that contradict halachic rulings. The concern is legitimate, but it should not be forgotten that Israeli "peace movements" have, in the past, also counseled their adherents to refuse to obey certain IDF orders.

ELIJAHU SHIFFMAN
Beit Shמש.

BOILING POINT

Sir, — Daoud Kuttab viciously attacked the Jewish community of Hebron in his article "At the boiling point," (March 1).

Herewith is our reply to several of Kuttab's accusations:

Kuttab refers to the "Ibrahimi mosque." This building is known to Jews as the Machpela Cave, the second holiest site to the Jewish people throughout the world. This site has served as a mosque only since 1267. The building was originally constructed as a site for Jewish worship, built by Herod, king of Judea, 2,000 years ago.

Concerning the Arab market and the Hebron central bus station, it should have been noted that the market was built in 1953 by Jordan on property owned by the Jewish community of Hebron. This land, part of the Jewish Quarter, was purchased in 1540,

and populated by Jews until 1929, when, following the massacre which left 67 dead and scores wounded, the surviving Jews were exiled from the city. This land was stolen by Hebron's Arabs and utilized for their own purposes.

As for the central bus station — the bus station was constructed on land purchased by the Habad Jewish community in Hebron in 1911. This land legally belonged to Habad upon Israel's return to Hebron in 1967. The late Menachem Mendel Schneerson personally transferred this property to the present Association for the Renewal of the Jewish Community of Hebron.

If, as Kuttab says, Hebron is at the boiling point, it is only because the city's Arab population and the PA leadership refuses to accept the natural and legiti-

mate right of Jews to reside in the first Jewish city in Israel.

DAVID WILDER,
Spokesperson,
The Jewish Community of Hebron.

TASTELESS AD

Sir, — The letter from Arlene Jacoby (March 30) indicates, I'm afraid, that she didn't understand my comments on the Auschwitz ad (Postscripts, February 27).

I was not suggesting that the Holocaust and its lessons should be ignored. Quite to the contrary. What I found tasteless was the use of that death camp photo as a fund-raising gimmick.

NECHEMIA MEYERS
Rehovot.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On April 2, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported from Germany that Jewish judges and lawyers were ordered to take a holiday from the courts where they were no longer wanted. The *Post* had also published a lengthy article "I Warn the Jew Baiters!" by Lion Feuchtwanger.

50 years ago: On April 2, 1948, *The Palestine Post* accused the

Palestine Mandatory Government of having failed in its most elementary and fundamental duty to provide means of transporting the people's food. The authorities undertook to guarantee safety on roads and yet withdrew this official pledge by advising Jews "not to go into areas where lawlessness could not be wiped out" and have completely abdicated their authority in Jerusalem where a

city of 160,000 people had been given over to blockade from without and chaos within.

25 years ago: On April 2, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that large numbers of suspected terrorists were arrested after bombs exploded in Jerusalem and Hadera and the discovery of a bomb in an Egged bus in Nabulus.

Alexander Zvielli

הכלל מן הכלל

Weekender

From 'Good Will' to goo

Robin Williams works best in films that are built around him

By MARK KENNEDY

Robin Williams opens the door in the voice of a deranged muppet. "Hello," the comedian says in a jaunty, high falsetto. "I'm Mr. Doody!" Williams stands aside to reveal an empty hotel suite. But even alone, Mr. Doody has plenty of company.

There's deep-sea legend Jacques Cousteau locked in a bitter argument with a Pakistani cab driver. There's Sir Laurence Olivier, the great British actor, gravely reciting a commercial for malt liquor. And there's a goofy game-show host flapping his arms. "Show him what he's won! A trip to Euro Disney, where Mistle has amput hair and smokes long cigarettes. 'Zat is zo existential."

There's a cast of thousands in Robin Williams, a comic whirlwind relentlessly sucking up observations about life and kernels of cultural kitsch and spewing them out as hilarious stream-of-consciousness ramblings.

Williams, who makes Jim Carrey seem lethargic, can't help it — it's as if he suffers from a form of comedic Tourette's syndrome.

"You have mail!" he'll say, leaping up in the now familiar computer-generated voice. A second later, he's a South-Central gangbanger. "Yo, wazzup wit' chaw, dude?" Then he'll grow serious. "You know, there's a very exciting career in animal proctology."

So how does he possibly hold it all in? "Like everyone else," he says, "without missing a beat. I just cross my legs and hope for the best."

Years after giving up drugs, Williams, 45, is still manic, still funny and still as startlingly original as when he burst onto the small screen as Mork from Ork.

Maybe even too original.

Director Les Mayfield confesses to an initial bout of nerves upon learning that the wildly improvisational Williams would star in his new romantic comedy, *Flubber*.

"How do you direct Robin Williams?" asks a shell-shocked Mayfield. "Get out of the way."

Hollywood hasn't always gotten the message. Williams's feature film resume lists a series of surprising jolts and twists, evidence that studios have not always been up to the challenge of trying to harness such a powerful, larger-than-life presence within a script strong enough to handle him.

True, his successes have been stunning: *Good Morning, Vietnam*, *Dead Poets Society*, *Mrs. Doubtfire*, *Awakenings* and *Good Will Hunting* — all films that tapped into both the actor's dramatic and comedic prowess.

But there have also been memorable flops, particularly when he's dumped into films that target preteens. In *Popeye*, *Toys*, *Hook* and *Jack*, the raw talent was somehow sedated, straitjacketed.

"You have to take responsibility for it," says Williams. "You get kind of a grace period, which is great. People say, 'OK, you made a bad choice there. What were you thinking, Robin?' But ultimately I made a choice to accept them."

His biggest movie breakthrough came in a film where he never made an appearance. It was as Genie in Disney's animated *Aladdin*, in which the full force of his talent was displayed. Left in a



"Flubber" is the latest example of the manic stuff Robin Williams has been doing since his days as a struggling stand-up comedian.

studio with a microphone, Williams went into overdrive, giving Disney more than 30 hours of raw, improvisational comedy. What started as a small cameo eventually stole the show, as Williams imitated everyone from Robert De Niro to Carol Channing. Kids cheered. Adults laughed themselves silly.

It was the first time a studio realized that in order to get the maximum bang out of Williams, the film had to be built around him.

That principle was put to work in Williams's latest film — a remake of 1961's *The Absent-Minded Professor*, which features a goofy green, pliable co-star called Flubber. This time, Williams plays straight man to the

goo.

"In some ways Flubber gets to do all the manic stuff that people expect me to do," says Williams. "He's Fred Astaire! He's got his own dance number! I haven't seen that since the Ice Follies. Come to think of it, I can't wait to see some guy stuffed into a green suit on the Ice Follies! He'd be whining, 'I don't want to be Flubber!'"

Since his days as a struggling stand-up comedian in New York during the 1970s, people have come to expect manic stuff from Robin Williams.

"Comedy gives you the freedom to not be afraid," he says. "Night after night you have to be fearless, you have to be willing to ... fall down, to be able to explore all

your different vulnerabilities but yet to still do it full-out. To commit."

Together with a partner, Williams collected as much as \$150 a day performing mime in front of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. "The only time I was really scared was with this nasty dowager," he recalls. "I thought she was going to kill me with a Louis Vuitton bag. I thought I'd have to have that bag surgically removed."

After two years at the Juilliard School, Williams moved to San Francisco where he waited tables by day until his break.

In 1978, Garry Marshall, the producer of the sitcom *Happy Days*, dreamed up an episode that featured an alien from the planet

Ork, who lands in Milwaukee in the 1950s. Veteran comedians Jonathan Winters and Dom DeLuise turned the role down. Williams leapt at it.

Mail response was so phenomenal that the ABC Television network authorized Marshall to create the spin-off series *Mork and Mandy*. More than 60 million people tuned in each week to watch Williams clown around, uttering gems like "nanu-nanu" and "shazbot."

Sober ever since his friend and fellow comic John Belushi died of a drug overdose in 1982, Williams now channels his prodigious energies into his career, his Comic Relief benefits, and his three young children. (AP)

Jamming in Netanya

By SARAH HERSHENSON

The Sirobar in Netanya's Sironit Hotel is one of the newest pubs in the city. Carved out of the hotel's unused space, it could become one of the better, more sought-out places in Netanya.

"We want to create a cozy, comfortable place for customers and musicians alike," says manager Gilad Meroz. "I tried various names. 'Sirobar' sounded too much like a cough medicine or ointment. 'Sirobar' sounds just right."

Born in Washington, D.C., Meroz lived a major part of his life in Europe and wants to give the pub a European image. Under his supervision, the Sirobar will be an open and comfortable place filled with good company and good music.

His background in industrial design enabled Meroz to lay out the three rooms of the pub for optimum use and efficiency. This multitasking fellow also handcrafted the hardwood stage and the beautiful mahogany bar.

Meroz says the "soul" of the bar will be the music. He plans to present live music performances once a week of various genres — jazz, Dixieland, fusion, bebop, classical.

"This is not only a place to hear music and have a drink," he comments, "it is also the place to get up and dance." A hard-wood dance floor will be installed within the coming weeks.

In addition, Gilad welcomes musicians to come in on off-nights and jam.

Stefan Brown will bring his sound of '60s jazz to the Sirobar on April 9. On the evening of April 23, the Gil Kessner Quartet will perform bebop jazz.

"We want all kinds of music so that we appeal to many tastes, have no age barriers, and develop our reputation of being a comfortable and welcoming place," says Meroz.

Meroz is also a professional project designer and has many dreams for the material side of Sirobar. In the summer, for example, he plans to cover the adjacent outside area with a pergola so people can sit and enjoy the music and the fresh sea breeze as well.

The Sironit always had a bar, albeit misplaced. Now that the area is opened up, the barman is in a central position where he can see all exits, handle everything and serve both the customers seated at tables and at the bar more efficiently. The bar serves Israeli Goldstar and Maccabi Beer at 10 NIS a glass, and imported beer is 11 NIS; tea and coffee are 6 NIS.

As the weather warms up, the barman will be mixing the Sirobar's special recipe for Surprise Iced Coffee. The Sirobar also serves red and white wines at 12 NIS a glass, Israeli alcohol at 15 NIS, and the special Barman's Cocktail at 22 NIS.

After Passover, snacks, sandwiches, salads, and chips — all kosher and freshly made — will be on the menu. "I want to serve relatively inexpensive fare of good quality to all my customers," says Meroz.

"I envision the Sirobar," he concludes, "as a place known for its good music, its weekly live performances, and its relaxing, welcoming atmosphere."

On evenings of scheduled live performances, the cover charge will be 30 NIS per person, which includes one drink.

Sirobar in the Sironit Hotel, Gad Machnes St., Netanya
Telephone: 09-884-0688

Books on my mind

Arts consultant Yossi Frost talks about his favorite novels

By HELEN KAYE

Say "Yossi Frost" and the response is culture with a capital C. He built Omani La'am (Art for the Masses) into the powerful arts-management body it is today. He initiated the Acre, Karmiel, Arad, Alternative Music and Menula Poetry festivals, among others. A big, elegant, ambitious, hard-working and attractive man, Frost is both staunch friend and unforgiving enemy. He's a self-confessed big-mouth, with an awesome vocabulary of four-letter words. The people he admires most are those who create.

His last job was head of the Arts and Culture Authority, a post to which Shulamit Aloni, then minister of education and culture, appointed him. Today he and Aloni are partners in their own arts consultancy firm dealing with communities and institutions both here and abroad.

Born and raised in Tel Aviv, Frost became a pop star in the '60s, but quit for the greater challenges of production. His knowledge of this country's cultural life is well-nigh encyclopedic. He is an avid dancer, theater, concert, and movie-goer and, of course, a voracious reader. He confesses to an increasing fascination with poetry, especially contemporary local poets, but he has chosen to talk about books "because I don't want to offend anybody."

He lives in Tel Aviv with his wife of 35 years, Batya, and their three grown sons "who've read all these books." "It goes without saying," says Frost, prefacing his choices, "that the writing is magnificent and that they have all been wonderfully translated into Hebrew."



about love, belief in the power of human love, and human struggle.

3. *Ancestors* by Italo Calvino
"I had never encountered such an abstract book, in the sense that the events are unbelievable, but each of the book's three stories is so packed with wisdom, the sort that comes from experience learned, that they became very real. I read it in the '60s. It was the first of Calvino's books to be translated. I'd never read such a book before, but today magical realism has become a genre in its own right. This is one of my bedside books. My son Michael especially loves it."

4. *The Last Temptation of Christ* by Nikos Kazantzakis
"I read this because the Second Temple period fascinated me. The strength of this book is that it makes Jesus truly human in contrast to the accepted picture of him, human in the sense that he has to contend with reality like the rest of us. Kazantzakis redeems him from myth. I read this in the '50s, in English, with a dictionary. The whole book is full of pencil marks. It gave me the courage to read more books in English."

5. *Penguin Island* by Anatole France
"I read this as a child. I'd found it in a library. You won't understand it," the librarian told me. I didn't, but the book so intrigued me that I bought it. I kept it beside my bed for years, but it was only after I'd finished my army service, on one of my trips abroad, that the light struck and I understood what France wanted. It's a satirical, allegorical history of the world and mankind using penguins. Orwell did it later in *Animal Farm*."

1. *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville

"The power and faith expressed in this book are almost religious. It's not certain who wins in this symbolic and actual conflict between man and nature. Melville doesn't take sides, that's what is so wonderful. I was very young when I read it, but I'm afraid to confront it again because it really challenges you. Maybe when I retire."

2. *The Magic Mountain* by Thomas Mann

"I was 17 when I first read the book. I read it again when I was about 40 and discovered new layers of complexity. That is the strength of the book. If I read it again, I'm sure I'd find something new again. For me, Mann's story [of life in a Swiss sanatorium] is

Street. Call (02) 624-5206.

Yellow Submarine goes quiet tonight with the mellow music of Dudi Levi starting at 9:30 p.m., and in the later hours it takes on a patriotic muse as Moshe Lahav sings Israeli songs. 13 Harehavim St. Call (02) 656-6611.

And Points Beyond

Funky and religious is the theme of "Fantasia" — a performance of Jewish music that knows no bounds. The Israeli ethnic music figurehead Shlomo Bar (of Habreira Hatviv) features, with Mario Solan and others at the Yad Lebanon in Ra'anana. Call (09) 761-0549.

Television

The Movie Channel tonight features *Jefferson in Paris*, a period piece about the American president, in his pre-presidential stint as ambassador to France. Nick Nolte plays Tom, starting at 10 p.m.

Jerusalem

At the Khan Theater, *The Virgin of Ludmir* tells of religious spirituality, repression and passion in the shtetl, and manages to consider women's roles in Jewish society, halacha and community life, all while maintaining humor and drama. At 8:30 p.m. Call (02) 571-8218.

The Zionist Confederation House is the venue tonight for Samark and Ensemble, the new house group established this year as part of a focus on ethnic music at the Confederation House. The group plays Bukharian music, starting at 9 p.m. 12 Emile Bots

will be shown, each a premier. The new works to be featured include: *Him*, a play written by Sami Michael, *Hearing the Sunrise*, written by poet Natan Zach, and *Can't Take It Anymore*, a play about the charming possibility of a woman taking the Chief Rabbi hostage. The event runs throughout the weekend, beginning tonight at both Tzavta 1 and 2. Call (03) 695-0156 for schedule information.

Even staunch modern-dance lovers might be tempted to witness the sleek new premier by the Israel Ballet, called "Ecstasy," which plays tonight at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center at 8:30 p.m. For a rarer dance evening, Kombina Dance Company is performing its "Hamlet Machine," at Suzanne Dellal this evening at 9 p.m. A theater-dance performance, Kombina takes the occasion to criticize a "television and Coca-Cola society" through the eyes of the Shakespearean character. Call (03) 638-8849.

ence, beginning at 9:30 p.m. Moving on to the live scene, Logos is hosting Assaf Amdurski tonight at 10 p.m. (off Carmel Market), while Hakosif Pub (tucked behind Rabin Square) features the eclectic work of the Beni Tal Quintet. This band plays it all, from R+B to punk, all the way to jazz. Beginning at 10:30 p.m. Call (03) 522-3244.

At that funky community house down on Sheinkin (known to some as Beit Tammy), the second part of a project entitled *At Hevel Dak* takes place tonight. This multidisciplinary performance project features music, theater and dance of several sorts. Yair Dalal and Aryeh Burstein will participate in this evening's program, among others. Off the Sheinkin Garden.

For a theater twist, check out the Short Theater Festival tonight at the Tzavta. Based on the festival's success in its first year, the now-annual festival is heading into its second year. Original plays running between 10 and 30 minutes

Hot tips

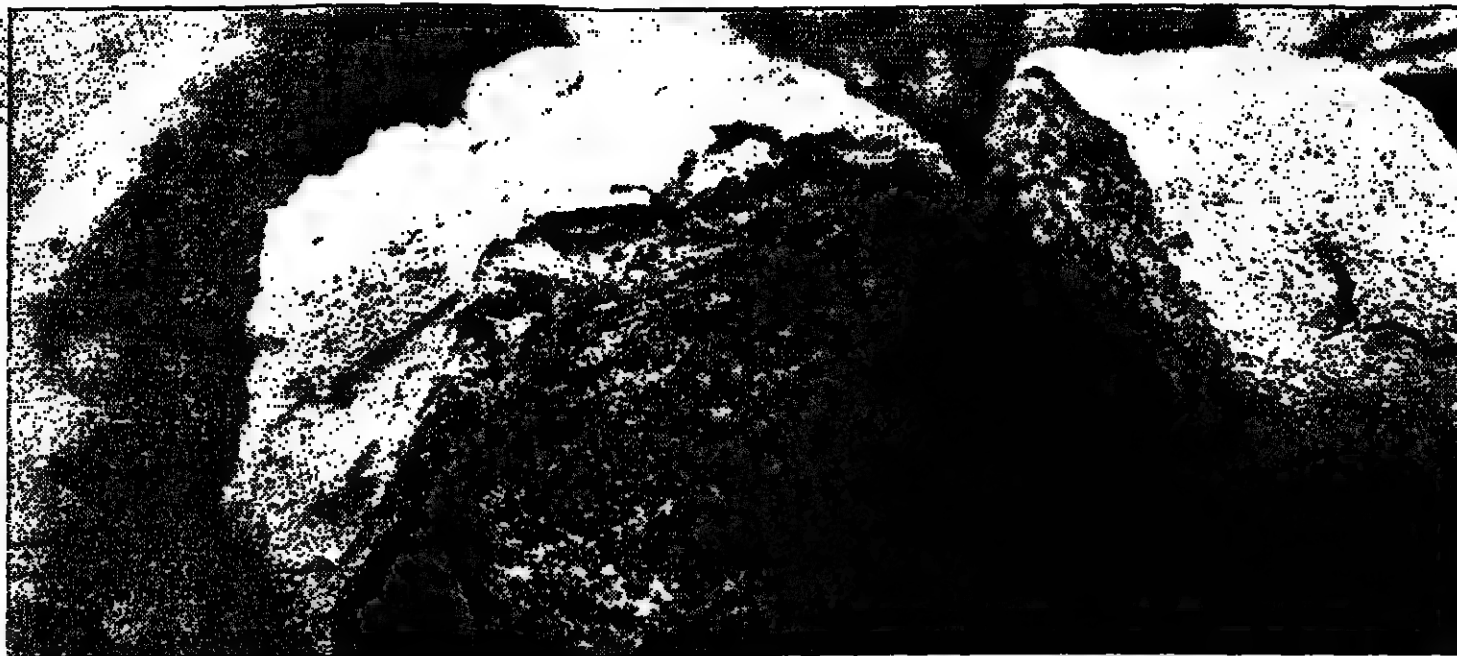
By DAHLIA SCHEINDLIN

Tel Aviv

Pop entertainment of the '80s joins music of the '70s! Remember 3-D laser light shows with groovy music? The Laserium in Tel Aviv stages two programs tonight: the first is based on the music of the Beatles and begins at 7:30 p.m., perfect timing for the whole family.

The Pink Floyd show is reserved for the slightly later audi-

Weekender Food & Drink



Great Aunt Ida's yummy almond strudel: A closely-guarded recipe



(L.A. Times)

Breast of veal is stuffed with potato and onion or fine noodles with onion and green pepper. (L.A. Times)

Mandelbread and other secrets

'W'ould you like some? It's delicious," said Martha Goldberg as she removed a stuffed veal breast from the oven.

Her recipe is so much in demand that it has been published twice: first, years ago, in a B'nai B'rith cookbook, and now in *Mama Cooks California Style*, a collection of thoroughly tested recipes produced by residents, relatives, friends and staff of the Los Angeles Jewish Home for the Aging.

The book's subtitle, "New Twists on Jewish Classics," reflects a double goal. One is to make recipes more healthful. The other is to introduce new ideas — lox and cream cheese in a quesadilla, rather than on a bagel, for instance, and blintzes transformed into corn crepes with a southwestern chicken filling.

However, the final chapter, "I Remember Mama: Recipes from the Past," contains recipes for traditional Jewish dishes in all their rich glory. To show how extraordinary this food can be, several contributors organized a tasting at the home. Goldberg, a resident for the last three years, placed her veal on a table along with cabbage and beef borscht, Russian tea cakes, almond strudel and golden brown mandelbread, or "mandelbreed," as the book calls it.

What makes the veal unusual is that you have a choice of stuffings, either potato and onion or fine noodles combined with onions and green peppers. "I always liked to try different dishes. I was very inventive," said Goldberg, who speaks of cooking in the past tense because these days she eats the meals provided at the home. (How is the food? "Very good," she said.)

Young chefs may be in vogue, but

Mollie Gombein was 75 when she went to work in the kitchen of Bageleh, a dining spot in Malibu. There she turned out 75 cheese blintzes and three pans of noodle kugel a day, along with chicken soup, of course, and a barley and mushroom soup that sold "very, very quick," she said. Of course, Gombein may have gotten the job because the restaurant was owned by her son, Bernie Safire.

Then again, she may have been qualified because of prior restaurant experience. "My mom had a restaurant on Coney Island," Gombein said. "When I was eight years old, I worked in the kitchen with mom. She taught me to cook."

Granny's Famous (and Secret) Mandelbread is no longer secret, thanks to Betty Goldberg's granddaughter, Stacy Becker. Becker watched while Goldberg made the pastries, recording such measures as "two bottle caps" of vanilla and "four to five shakes" of cinnamon. "My grandmother's a phenomenal cook," Becker said. "I think we're intimidated because she's the queen of cooking."

Anyone who has tasted Lee Lee's Russian tea cakes gasps with pleasure at the thought of them. The orange-and-vanilla-flavored dough is wrapped around a filling of jelly, raisins, nuts (or coconut) and cinnamon sugar. The recipe came from Leona Kusner, a resident of the home who died six years ago. When the notice went out to submit recipes for the book, her daughter, Marcia Schulman, happily complied. "What a nice way to remember her," she said.

Retired home economist Harriet Part, a volunteer at the home, served as food editor of the cookbook. She contributed a recipe for almond strudel. In the introduction,

Mama's recipes are still worth their weight in gold, writes Barbara Hansen

she wrote, "My great-aunt Ida, who was from Turkey, made the most unusual and delicious strudel, which she brought to every wedding and bar mitzvah. "She would never share the recipe, but I will."

Here are recipes from *Mama Cooks California Style*.

BREAST OF VEAL AND TWO STUFFINGS
Martha Goldberg recommends adding tomato sauce while baking the following veal dish to give it a warm red color. We've added her suggestion to this recipe. Choose one stuffing to fill a single veal breast or use half of each stuffing to try a different one on each side.

for the potato stuffing:
2 1/2 cups cubed, peeled potatoes
2 Tbsp. olive oil
1 large onion, sliced into rings
salt and pepper to taste
1 egg, beaten
for the noodle stuffing:
1 Tbsp. oil
1 cup chopped onions
1/4 cup finely chopped green bell pepper
2 cups cooked, drained fine noodles

1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
1/4 tsp. paprika
for the veal:
1 3/4 - 2 1/4 kg. breast of veal
trimmed of fat, with pocket for stuffing
salt, pepper and paprika to taste
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 cup coarsely chopped onions
1 cup coarsely chopped carrots

1 cup coarsely chopped celery
olive oil
1 1/2 cups beef broth
1/2 cup tomato sauce
1/4 cup water

To make the potato stuffing, boil potatoes in water to cover until tender, about 15 minutes. Drain and coarsely mash.

Heat olive oil in skillet over medium heat. Add onion and cook until well browned, 8-10 minutes. Stir in potatoes and season with salt and pepper to taste. Remove from heat and stir in egg. Set aside.

Prepare the noodle stuffing. Heat oil in a skillet over medium heat. Add onions and bell pepper and sauté until tender, about 5 minutes.

Combine noodles, onions, bell pepper, salt, pepper and paprika. Taste and add more seasonings if desired. Set aside.

Season veal with salt, pepper, paprika and minced garlic to taste. Stuff pocket with potato stuffing or noodle stuffing, or half of each. Close pocket with skewers.

Place veal, onions, carrots and celery in 33 x 23 cm. baking pan. Bake uncovered at 205° for 20 minutes. Mist or brush with olive oil if veal looks dry.

Add beef broth and cover tightly with foil. Reduce heat to 175° and bake 1 hour, basting frequently and adding stock if needed. Combine 1/4 cup tomato sauce and water and add to veal at end of 1 hour cooking time. Bake 1 hour more, basting frequently. Add remaining tomato sauce and cook 30 minutes more.

Remove veal from oven and let stand 15-20 minutes before carving.

(Serves 4-5.)

CABBAGE AND BEEF BORSCHT

Mollie Gombein is justly proud of this soup. "If I say so myself, it is delicious," she writes in the introduction to the recipe.

700 gr. beef short ribs
900 gr. cabbage, shredded
1 large onion, finely chopped
3 carrots, shredded
1/2 cup tomato sauce
7 cups water, combined with beef bouillon cubes if desired
225 gr. mushrooms, sliced
salt and pepper to taste
2-3 Tbsp. lemon juice
2 dashes oregano
1 Tbsp. chopped parsley

Brown short ribs on all sides in a hot stockpot over medium heat. Add cabbage, onion and carrots and cook until cabbage wilts, about 5 minutes. Add tomato sauce and water, then cover and cook until meat is tender, 1 1/2-2 hours. Add mushrooms, 2-3 tsp. salt, or to taste, 1/2 tsp. pepper, or to taste, and cook 15 minutes. Add lemon juice, oregano and parsley and cook 5 more minutes. (Serves 4-6.)

GRANNY'S FAMOUS (AND SECRET) MANDELBREAD
Betty Goldberg says the hardest part of this recipe is properly drying the mandelbread. "Keep turning it after you slice it," she advises.

3 eggs at room temperature
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup oil

juice of 1 orange
4-5 shakes cinnamon
2 bottle caps vanilla extract
1 tsp. baking soda
2 tsp. baking powder
3 1/2-4 cups flour
2 1/2 Tbsp. poppy seeds
1 cup blanched slivered almonds
nonstick cooking spray
1 Tbsp. sugar blended with 1/2 tsp. cinnamon

Whip eggs and 1 cup sugar in a large bowl with an electric mixer until light and fluffy. Add oil, orange juice, cinnamon and vanilla. Set aside measuring cup that held oil. Combine baking soda, baking powder and flour. Gradually add flour mixture to egg mixture, mixing constantly. Dough should be very thick.

Turn off mixer and stir in poppy seeds and nuts.

Drip any oil that has settled in measuring cup onto a 38 x 23 cm. jelly roll pan and spread evenly, then spray with nonstick cooking spray.

Form dough into 4 wide strips across short width of pan, leaving 4 cm. between rows. Sprinkle dough with cinnamon-sugar mixture. Bake at 175° until lightly browned, 35-40 minutes.

Cut rows of dough apart with a serrated knife if they have run together. Cut each row crosswise into thin strips. If bread is crumbly, return to oven and bake a few minutes more before cutting.

Separate slices on pan to allow for further drying. Return to oven and bake at 175° for 10 minutes. Turn slices over and bake at 135° for 15 minutes. Cool and serve. (Makes 40 pieces.)

ALMOND STRUDEL
Harriet Part says this strudel can

be frozen, but it's not likely there will be enough of this special treat left over to freeze.

2 cups blanched almonds
1 1/2 cups powdered sugar, plus extra for sprinkling on strudel
1 egg white, slightly beaten, or 2 Tbsp. corn syrup
1 Tbsp. lemon juice
1/4 tsp. almond extract
8 large sheets filo dough
butter-flavored nonstick cooking spray or 1/2 cup butter, melted
1 cup fine vanilla wafer crumbs

Finely chop almonds in blender or food processor. Pour into bowl of electric mixer. Add sugar, egg white, lemon juice and almond extract and beat until thoroughly blended.

Lay filo sheets on dry surface and fold in half. Working from bottom up, fold back each half sheet and spray with cooking spray or brush with melted butter. Lightly sprinkle with cookie crumbs. Spray top sheet with cooking spray and sprinkle with crumbs.

Mold almond mixture into roll about length of filo sheets. Place almond roll at one end of top filo sheet.

Fold in sides and roll like jelly roll. Spray seam with cooking spray or brush with melted butter and press to close.

Lift carefully and place roll seam side down on greased baking sheet. Spray with cooking spray or brush with melted butter. Cut slits through top of strudel 4 cm. apart. Do not cut through strudel.

Bake at 190° until lightly browned, 20-30 minutes. Remove from oven and cool. Slice, using slits as guide. Sprinkle with extra powdered sugar. (Serves 10-12.) (Los Angeles Times)

Phyllis's Tips

age directs, but it probably would taste even better cooked, chilled and served with bagels and cream cheese.

Dating (OK)

Pessah is the high season for silaan, a date-based syrup used primarily by Sephardi (and particularly Iraqi) Jews during this holiday season. Traditionally, silaan is used for sweetening haroset (some claim it is the original haroset). It also is used in cooking and baking, as a spread on matza, and as a sweetener for beverages and yogurts.

Hatzar Kinneret sells silaan in 450 and 900 gr. jars and plastic bottles. It also has a special kosher lehemadlin version certified by Hatam Sofer in Bnei Brak.

It contains dates, sugar, glucose and lemon salt with no preservatives, and 900 gr. sells for NIS 13.50. Hatzar Kinneret also produces totally natural silaan which contains no sugar and has a slightly bitter undertaste that some people enjoy. A 350 gr. jar sells for NIS 12.80.

Horsing around (OK)

This Pessah the Strauss company expects to sell 150,000 jars of horseradish to Israeli consumers.

This is not farfetched considering that last year the company held 41 percent of the horseradish market. Strauss says that its horseradish is natural and doesn't contain any extracts or food coloring. According to the company, its horseradish is the

only one that has the Badatz hechsher of She'erit Yisrael. The 250-gr. jar sells for NIS 9.95.

Kneidlach (not like my mother's)

They're not like my mother's light and delicious creations, but Sunfront's frozen kneidlach are infinitely whiter and lighter than those I had recently at Baya's Jewish restaurant in Tel Aviv. All you need to do is place them in hot soup and cook them over a low heat for 10 minutes. Certified kosher for Pessah by the Rabbinate of Kiryat Malachi, the kneidlach are sold in a 600-gr. bags for NIS 12.50.

Pessah sales at Greenberg Greenberg supermarkets are offering more than food for Pessah. They also sell toasters, blenders, electric kettles, kitchen towels, bath towels, sheets, clothes, suitcases and travel bags, in addition to President's Choice disposable dishes.

The prices are relatively low. A set consisting of a kitchen towel, hot mitt and pot holder is selling for NIS 12.90 instead of NIS 19.90, and a tablecloth with matching cloth napkins is selling for NIS 59.90 instead of NIS 82.90.

Cooking classes

Bishulim, the new cooking school in Jaffa, is offering special workshops for children on April 5, 6, 7 and 8. The three-hour workshops conducted by

chefs Michal Mozes and Itai Shalev begin at 10 a.m. and are open to eight- to 12-year-olds. The children will learn how to make three or four dishes in each class, like little schnitzels, pasta, muffins, spaghetti in tomato sauce, fillings for sandwiches and chocolate cake.

Each workshop is NIS 230. For information call (03) 681-9141.

Pessah cakes
Why do people seem to think that it is so difficult to give up bread and bread products for one out of the 52 weeks of the year?

Instead of investigating new foods, they try to create rolls, cakes and other pseudo-bread products, which often have a taste you'd only wish your worst enemies would try.

This week, I received several different kosher-for-Pessah cakes, one of which we found edible: Elite's Pessah Coconut Cake with Chocolate Chips. It is the kind of cake that you might take a second slice of. Not that it's that great, but it's certainly not bad and its consistency is good. The 450-gr. cake sells for NIS 12.10.

Osem's Pessah Habayit Marble Cake, with its bitter chemical undertaste, makes you wish you were Christian. It also comes in four other flavors: chocolate with coconut; chocolate chip; nut; and chocolate with coconut. The chocolate with coconut was the best in the series. 450 gr. for NIS 12.20.



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

I buy an orange-colored spice in the souk called "amba." Do you know what it is called in English?

—Naftali Armon, Neveh Daniel

The amba I am familiar with is an orange-colored sauce made from unripe mango, turmeric and fenugreek. The sauce is used for flavoring and thickening and usually is served in places selling shawarma or felafla. I have never seen a dried amba spice. Like harissa (the Moroccan hot sauce) and s'hug (the Yemenite coriander condiment), it has no English name that I am aware of.

I have several questions that no one can help answer — I hope you can!

1. I bought "dried tomato paste." How can it be substituted for sun-dried tomatoes for Italian recipes?

2. What is *mangetout*? It seems to be French.

3. I assume that *petit pois* are small peas — anything else I should know?

4. What is table squash?

5. What are adzuki beans?

—Leah Lev, Karmiel

I haven't encountered "dried tomato paste," except as an organic product sold in a foil envelope. If this is what you mean, it is not a substitute for sun-dried tomatoes, but rather a substitute for regular canned tomato paste. To use this,

just add water, let it sit for a few minutes to thicken and then adjust the consistency by adding either more water or powder. You should end up with a smooth sauce, instead of sun-dried tomatoes, which provide a chewy, colorful addition to various dishes.

Mangetout is the French word for pea pods that are eaten whole, like Chinese pea pods. The word *mangetout* actually means "all edible." *Petit pois* are indeed small peas. They are not available here, but tender young peas are available in season.

I asked several people what table squash is; the best answer I got was that it is a sport for sedentary executives.

Adzuki beans are small red beans which are very popular in Japanese and macrobiotic cooking.

You can find dried adzuki beans in health-food stores. They are supposedly easier to digest than regular beans.

Do you know of any cooking schools in Israel? Cooking classes? Culinary tours? Also, I wrote to you two weeks ago about the fat content in watermelon seeds and haven't received an answer yet.

—Suzanne Sapir, Jerusalem

There are various courses available in Israel, depending on whether you are interested in professional training or just-for-fun courses. You'll have to explain in more detail what you'd like to learn in order for me to help you.

As for your question about watermelon seeds, I have answered it ("Feedback," March 19). Due to the volume of mail I receive, it sometimes takes months to get to a question.

I think I have the recipe for chasene soup requested by Gilbert Herbert ("Feedback," February 6).

—L. and S. Herscovitz, Ra'anana

Although one recipe for this soup already has been published ("Feedback," February 12), here is the Herscovitzes' version.

CHASENE SOUP

1 kg. soup meat
2 large onions
1 potato
5 liters water
500 gr. tin tomato puree
lemon juice to taste
2 1/2 Tbsp. sugar
salt to taste
1 Tbsp. oats
for the meat balls:
1 kg. minced meat
1 potato, grated
1 large onion, grated
1 small tomato, finely chopped

In a large soup pot, place the meat, onions, potato and water. Bring to a boil and cook on low heat till meat is tender. Add the tomato puree, lemon juice, sugar and salt to taste.

Mix all the ingredients for the meatballs together and make small balls. Cook the meat balls in the soup. Half an hour before serving, add oats to soup. (Serves 12-15.)

Phyllis Glazer can be contacted at The Jerusalem Post Magazine, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem, 91000, or by E-mail: phyllisfood@jpost.co.il

Do not send stamped, self-addressed envelopes, as inquiries cannot be answered individually. Feedback also appears in The Jerusalem Post Magazine on Friday.

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Weekender Travel

Day Tripper

By Ham Shapiro

Pine-forest nirvana

There I was walking through one of the most beautiful parts of the Carmel Forest. But to tell the truth, I was more concerned with walking at a brisk pace than I was with looking around.

Only a few hours before, I had had a nutrition consultation where I had learned, not entirely to my surprise, that some 35 percent of my body mass was pure fat. This diagnosis had been accomplished, painlessly, by attaching electrodes to my hand and foot.

The way to burn off the fat, the adviser told me, is by exercise — not just any exercise — but an aerobic exercise, such as fast walking, which would moderately increase my pulse rate. While hardly unpleasant, the nutritional analysis was the only jarring moment during an otherwise idyllic stay at the Carmel Forest Spa.

Located in what was once a rest home in the heart of the forest, the spa is now a part of the resort chain, and is devoted to pampering clients.

The previous day I had had a session of aroma hydrotherapy, during which I was immersed in a warm bath with aromatic oil and my body was caressed with jets of water and spurts of bubbles. During all this a nice young woman from Chicago massaged my head and neck to help me relax. Finally, she wrapped me in a wet sheet, covered me with a blanket and massaged my feet and toes.

I was in a state of nirvana as I made my way to the solarium, where I relaxed on a chaise longue, sipping a cup of herbal tea.

A vast picture window presented

a sweeping view of the Mediterranean coast, several kilometers to the west.

It was only with difficulty that I finally tore myself away to swim several laps in the pool.

In the evening we enjoyed more herbal tea, this time in the vast lobby, where a parquet floor and wooden ceiling add a feeling of warmth, reinforced by a large brick fireplace and overstuffed armchairs and sofas. The tea was especially welcome after dinner.

At present, all meals are served buffet style at the hotel, except for those taking part in the special weight-loss package. However, there are plans to go back to old-fashioned waiter service and thus save guests from their own appetites.

As for myself, I loaded up on the diverse and innovative salads, but had enough self-discipline to choose only one main course, a perfectly cooked fillet steak. However, when it came to the desserts, I could not resist temptation and tried two: a cooked pear and a delicious almond petit four.

The next day I quickly followed my nutritional consultation with a walk in the forest. Just outside the entrance to the hotel, a large wooden sign in Hebrew and English suggests a variety of walks, varying in length from three-quarters of a kilometer to 10 kilometers. Each has a different colored arrow, which appears at regular intervals along the way.

I chose a five-kilometer walk to the "Shoket Stream." Actually, I found no stream and I suspect that the area would better be described as a ravine. What I did see were stretches of natural woodland,

with scrub oak and elm trees, interspersed with the pines planted by the JNF.

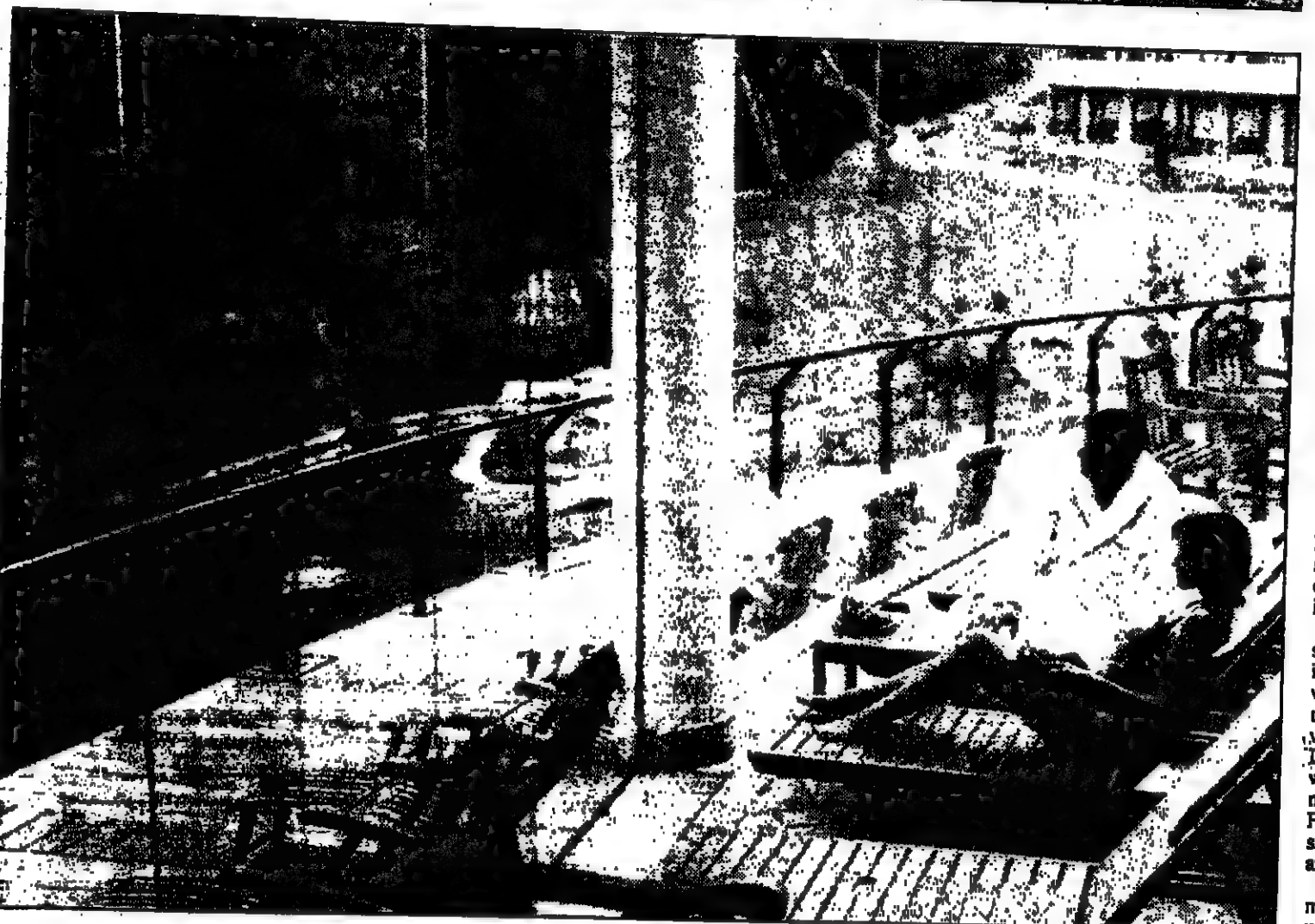
At one point along the way, I reached a clearing with a fine view of the coast and the village of Ein Hod to the south. There were mysterious animal tracks along the path, and at one point I saw the crushed underbrush that usually indicates the passage of a wild boar. But the only interesting wildlife I did see was a brilliantly colored blue jay which spread its black-and-white striped wings and took off as I approached.

Afterward, any cramped muscles were quickly eased by a very competent Swedish massage therapist and a session in the sauna and steam room.

All this does not come cheap. The nightly rate for a couple with full board in the off season starts at NIS 890 a night on weeknights and NIS 1,190 on weekends, not including treatments. A five-day weight-loss program, including full board and one treatment a day, is NIS 3,500 for one person and NIS 1,600 for the second person on the same program in the same room. A second person in the same room without the program is NIS 850.

To reach the Carmel Forest Spa, go west at the Adit Junction of the Tel Aviv-Haifa Coastal Highway. Turn left on the Old Haifa Road and right at the sign to Beit Oren. This will bring you to a winding road into the Carmel Forest. Follow signs to the spa.

The forest walks themselves are free to everyone. To find them, follow the signs to the spa and park just outside the gate to the spa, where you should see the sign.



Follow your aroma hydrotherapy session or Swedish massage by meditating in the natural wood forest (top), or simply relax on a chaise longue in the spa's solarium (above).

Zedekiah's Cave: The silence below the bustle

Close Encounters
By Allan Rabinowitz

One winter's day in 1854, Dr. James Barclay, an American physician, missionary and amateur biblical scholar working in Jerusalem, went out walking with his son and dog. The dog, romping ahead, dug into the earth and suddenly vanished, into a grotto which was now exposed.

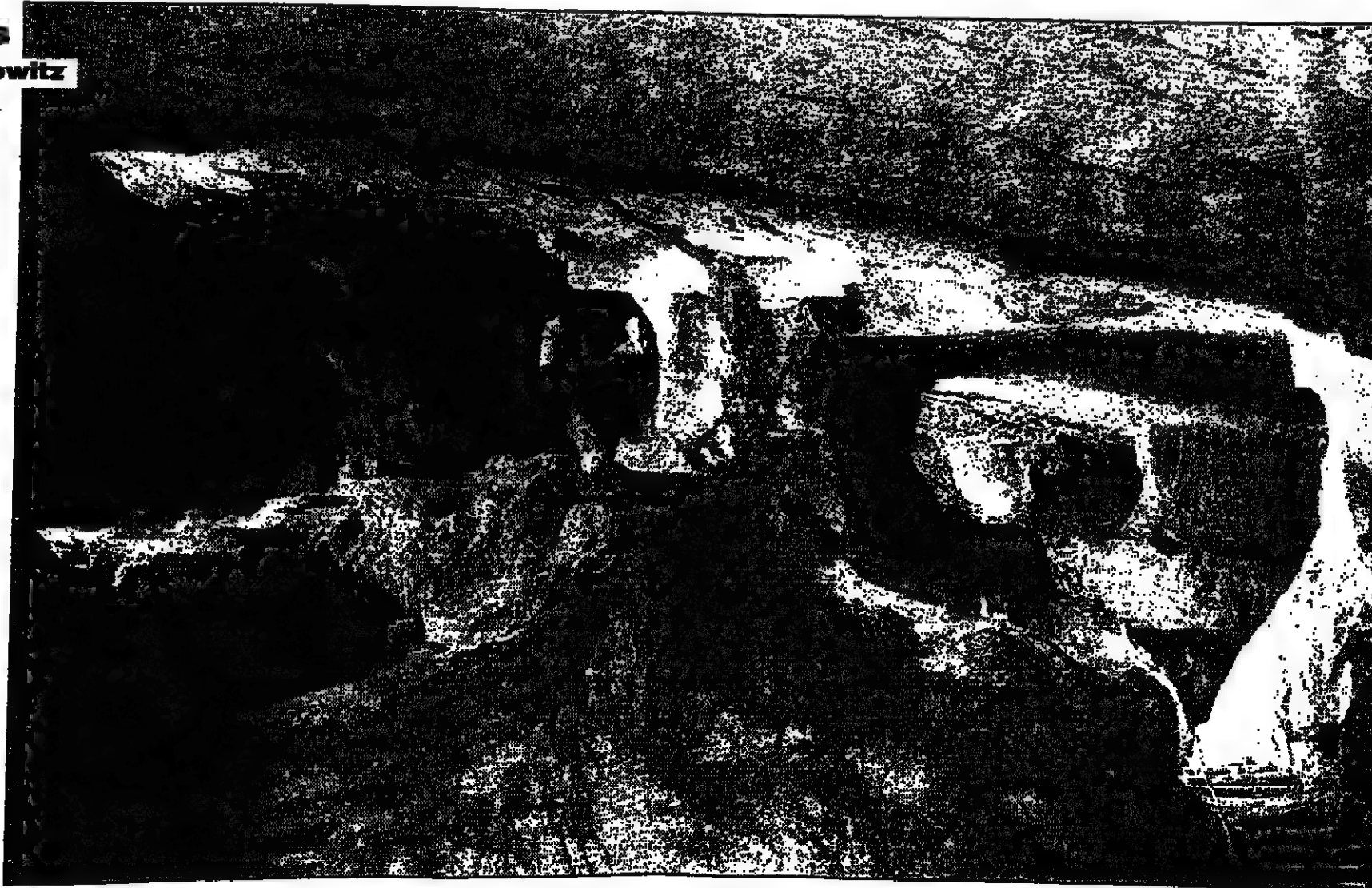
The doctor and two companions then spent an entire wet, cold, muddy night exploring what turned out to be an immense cave which stretched under the Moslem Quarter of the city. A subsequent explorer, picking his way near a deep pit at the far end of the grotto, found the skeleton of someone who had fallen in during an earlier age.

This is Zedekiah's Cave, a quarry originally cut from a natural cave, and extending for over 200 meters in length, spreading to more than 100 meters in width, under the shops and crowded alleys of the Old City.

This is one of the largest quarries found in Israel. It is honeycombed with chambers, niches and passages, as well as with the legends that accumulated over the centuries, before the site was buried and forgotten.

Less than 50 meters to the east of Damascus Gate, where hawkers shout, horns blare, and vendors, children and beggars squeeze past, a small door in the bedrock under the Old City wall leads you into this huge cave and a world of darkness and silence. The silence is broken only by the sound of crunching gravel and the drip of distant water.

As you follow along the path, the quarry sinks and winds into numerous chambers, hewn around massive stone pillars left for support. Huge labors are hinted at by the heaps of rubble and the chippings of shaped stones. The incisions where workers placed their hands and set their chisels are clearly visible, and some blocks are still partly attached to the walls. Recesses indicate that some of the extracted blocks measured more than one meter deep and three meters high. Although its age is not precisely



Zedekiah's Cave, dating back over 2,000 years, is honeycombed with chambers, niches, passages — and legends.

(R. Milon)

known, the quarry dates back well over 2,000 years. Some researchers claim that this quarry was actively worked during the reign of King Solomon, during the 10th century BCE, supplying the stone for the First Temple. They cite as evidence the fine stone chippings, indicating that the stone was shaped within the quarry. This would seem to fit the biblical description that the stone for the

Temple was pre-dressed to avoid the use of iron tools at the building site. In 1874, a French archeologist discovered a carving on the wall near the mouth of the cave depicting a cherub, the winged, lion-like creature described in the Bible as part of the Ark of the Covenant. This figure was often used during the First Temple period and associated with the Temple. There is also some suggestion

of early burial caves here. It is clear that the quarry was active from the second century BCE onwards, during the Hasmonean rule and later, when King Herod massively refurbished and expanded the Second Temple precinct. It is very possible that some of the Temple blocks came from this quarry. The size and grain of some excavated stones near the Temple Mount match the

indentations and stone of the quarry. It seems clear that the cave was known throughout Jerusalem's history. It was through this cave, legend indicates, that King Zedekiah, the last king of Judah, tried to escape the Babylonian siege, following a secret tunnel from here all the way to Jericho. But, according to the Talmudic commentator Rashi, God intended that he be caught, and led

hunters chasing a deer near Jericho to the place from which Zedekiah emerged. The second book of Kings details how, after being captured, Zedekiah was blinded immediately after being forced to witness the murder of his sons. The water percolating into a basin hewn in the wall in the quarry became known as Zedekiah's Tears, after the king's grief over his city and children.

The Freemasons, believing that the cave does indeed go back to Solomon's reign, called the cave King Solomon's Quarry and, since Solomon is considered the first Freemason, they have used the wide, high-ceilinged central chamber for ceremonies since the late 19th century.

A 10th-century Moslem legend claimed that it was in this cave that the earth opened to swallow Korah, the relative of Moses who challenged his leadership. Crosses painted on the wall indicate that the cave was known during the Crusader period, and at some point was used to store cotton and called the Cotton Growers' Grotto.

The cave was finally blocked up (perhaps to prevent penetration of the city's defenses), probably during the time of the Ottoman ruler Suleiman the Magnificent during the 16th century. He rebuilt the walls of the city (the same walls which define the Old City today). The blocked entrance was buried, lost and forgotten.

Or it was, until Dr. Barclay (who also identified the lintel of the Herodian gate by the Western Wall which is now named after him) went walking with his son and that frisky dog.

Today, a well-marked and well-lit circular tour route weaves through the cave, and you can safely branch off into its nooks and crannies. Feel the overpowering silence under the Old City, sense the great labor that gouged out this immense labyrinth, and then climb back out into the colorful and chaotic bustle of a modern city.

Facing the Damascus Gate, the entrance to the cave is about 50 meters along the wall to the left. It is open daily, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Fri. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tel. (02) 625-4403.

Allan Rabinowitz is a licensed tour guide.

Weekender Leisure

An image within an image

Not long ago I photographed a subject sitting in front of a computer screen. When I printed the picture, I was surprised to see that my picture had picked up an unexpected bonus. The woman's reflection appeared on the glass surface of the screen.

Reflection is a gift of nature and has long been a mystical and revealing device in art and literature. According to the Greek myth, the beautiful youth Narcissus died of love-sickness when he saw his own face in a quiet pool of water. Polished bronze mirrors, perhaps reflective of heavenly light, were among the furnishings of the Tabernacle (Ex. 38:8). The 15th-century Flemish painter Jan van Eyck placed a small convex mirror at the center of his famous portrait *Arnolfini and His Wife* to symbolize the eye of the Divine reflecting on their marriage. And when Lewis Carroll called his second book about Alice *Through the Looking Glass*, he may well have had his hobby of photography in mind.

Despite the precedents in painting and letters, the new mechanical process of photography was rather slow to take advantage of "the image within an image" when the camera burst on the scene in the mid-19th century. This may have been for technical reasons.

Among the few pictures I've come across that include reflections is a photograph of the renowned American Civil War photographer Matthew Brady, taken by one of his

assistants. A contemplative Brady, wearing a straw hat, is standing on the Gettysburg battlefield, surveying the ravages of war. His figure, along with a broken-down fence, is reflected in the nearby stream.

Shiny surfaces like water, glass, metal and mirrors can enhance any photograph either by "doubling" the image or by capturing a significant part of the picture in a reflection. Sometimes a reflection can be the whole picture, a subject of photography in its own right.

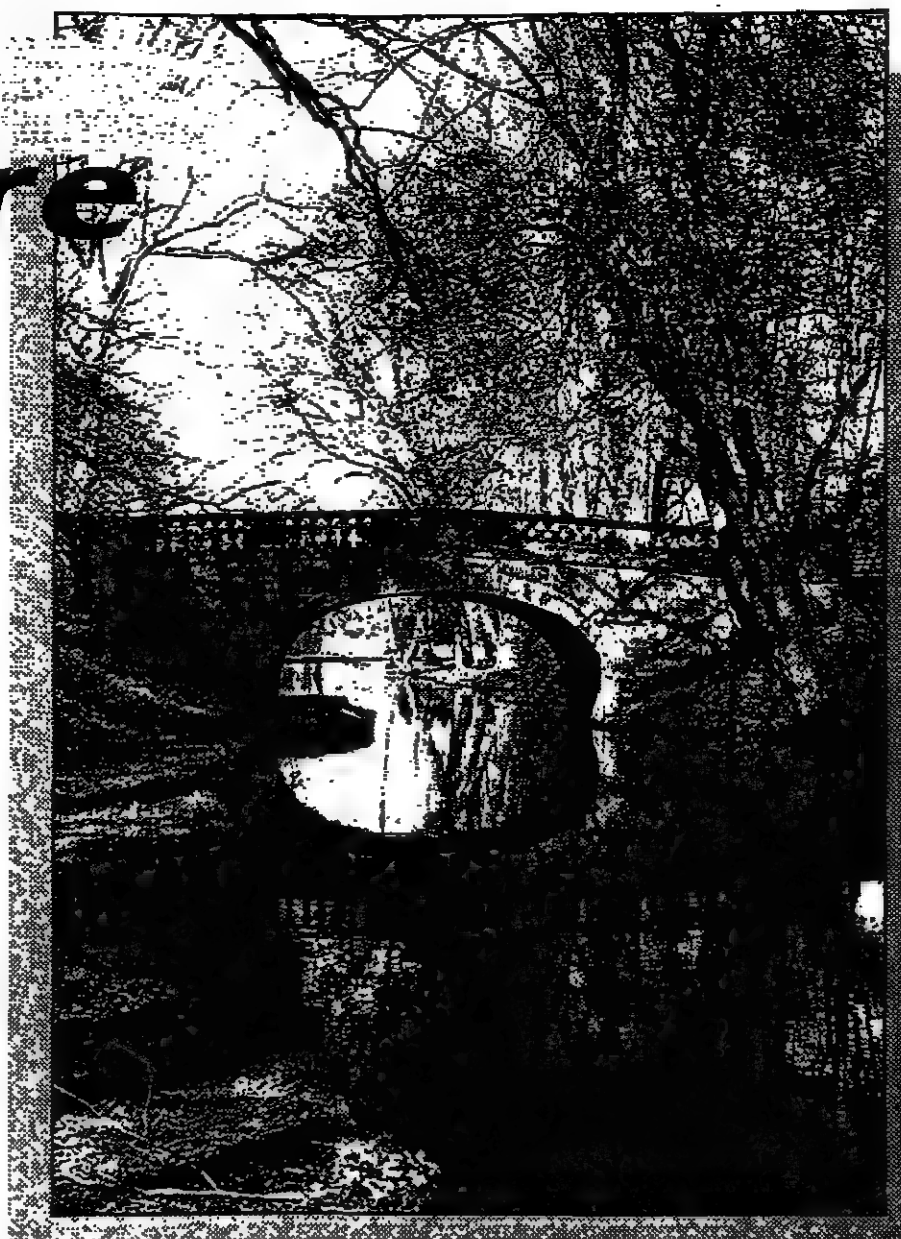
Reflections were first seen on water, which remains a most serviceable surface of reflection for photographers. Art photographer Howard Clapsaddle, who takes most of his pictures in the Judean Desert, gravitates toward the quiet pools. Because many of his tantalizing color images of the reflections on the water are quite abstract, the viewer is challenged to look twice. Often the line between reality and reflection is teasingly unclear.

The best time to photograph reflections on water is when the sun is not overhead — that is, in the morning or late afternoon. The water does not have to be absolutely still. In fact, the distortion of a few ripples can add greatly to the interest of your images.

The water also does not have to be a body like a lake. A wet street at night makes a wonderful reflective surface. I recall an absolutely riveting picture that I came across in a newspaper of a Paris café reflected in the lamp-lit, rain-swept street in front of it.

On Camera

By David Brauner



(Above) Reflection of a tree in a small puddle of water. (Below) Reflections of a stone bridge and trees in a canal, Lancaster, England. (Photos: David Brauner)

Speaking of Paris, Jerusalem photographer Marli Shamir, while living in the French capital, became so fascinated with the glass and metal reflections all around her that she devoted much of her photography to exploring the phenomenon of reflection.

Shamir observes that her pictures of windows are often three pictures in one: what is

inside the window, what is outside the window — such as people walking by — and what is reflected in the window.

The glass used in modern architecture, inside and out, offers the photographer opportunities galore to capture mirrored views of the world. Often the panels of glass fronting tall office blocks impose a patchwork of the reflected sky or buildings opposite. Car windows are another source of reflections. Because they are curved, like the surfaces in a hall of mirrors, they produce bent, surrealistic lines and shapes.

Mirrors, of course, are the classic reflectors. I recently came across a fascinatingly complex photograph called "Mirror in Ceylon," taken by the late Tim Gidal in the 1940s. The photographer included himself and his camera in the image of a young lady (an actress? a dancer?) peering at herself in a lighted mirror.

Photographing reflections in mirrors is a bit tricky. What the photographer has to know is that the image lies as far behind the reflecting surface as the mirrored object lies in front of it. In other words, the lens must be focused on the image in the mirror and not on the surface of the mirror. So if you take a self-portrait using a mirror and you are standing one meter from the mirror, your image will lie one meter behind the mirror. Thus your focusing distance measures a total of two meters.

Incidentally, never use a flash when photographing against reflective surfaces. The burst of light will wash out most or all of the picture.

Finally, there is one reflective surface close to us all — our eyes. Capturing a window or other source of light reflected in the eyes of a subject adds not only sparkle but also deeper meaning to any close-up portrait.

Your photography questions and comments are welcome. Contact David Brauner, e-mail: dmorris@mail.biu.ac.il (write "for David" in the subject line) or fax 02-563-7792 or do Photo Archives, The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000.

Bridge

The passing of a partner

By MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

West dealer
East-West vulnerable

North
♠ A J 7 6 3
♥ 10 7 4 2
♦ K 8 7 2
♣ -

West (Leventritt) East (Schenkin)
♠ Q 10 8 5 ♠ K 9 4 2
♥ J ♥ K 9
♦ A 9 3 ♦ Q J 10 6 4
♣ A J 9 7 2 ♣ 8 5

South
♠ -
♥ A Q 8 6 5 3
♦ 5
♣ K Q 10 6 4 3

West North East North
pass pass pass 2 ♠
pass 2 ♠ pass 3 ♥
pass 4 ♥ pass pass
double redouble (all pass)

Opening lead: ♠A

One of America's most famous partners died recently. I say "partners" rather than "players" because Peter Leventritt, of New York, was known primarily for being the partner of the late Howard Schenkin. The latter was author of the Schenkin Club System, the forerunner of the Precision Club System, invented years later by C.C. Wei of New York.

Schenkin's fame often put his partner Leventritt in the shadows, but undeservedly so. Leventritt was a brilliant player in his own right and a terrific teacher as well. He spent many years in South Africa training bridge teams there before returning to New York in the 1980s. Leventritt was born in New York City in 1916. In 1945, he became president of the American Contract Bridge League, and in the 1950s he co-founded the Card School of New York with Edgar Kaplan, editor of *Bridge World* magazine.

In 1957, 1961, 1963, and 1965, Leventritt had a series of bridesmaids' turns in world-championship play, losing in the final to the famous Italian Blue Team.

On today's deal, Leventritt turned a potential minus score into a plus with a brilliant and risky penalty double that could easily have backfired. Most players are aware that an injudicious penalty double can help the opponents. This occurs when a player doubles the final

contract with a trump stack, and because of the double, either his opponents escape to a better contract or the declarer finds a way to overcome the bad trump split by finessing through the doubler.

But what if the normal line of play is bound to succeed? In this case, a "fake" penalty double can persuade declarer to abandon his normal plan, and substitute in its place an abnormal line of play that fails. This plot by the false doubler will not succeed unless the contract is borderline to start with, and declarer has the imagination and flexibility to devise alternate lines of play.

The late Monroe Ingberman, one of Leventritt's friends, and coach of the Dallas Aces, once discussed this idea with me: "The false double is not a weapon recommended for casual use," said Ingberman, "but some experts seem to sniff out these opportunities, like in the deal from the world championships in 1963." He then referred to today's deal.

The fireworks shown in the auction were based on an Italian bidding system, where the two-club opening was natural. The result was a plus score of 200 points to East-West after the enterprising double by Leventritt, sitting West. The Italian North increased the stakes by redoubling, but the defenders actually took four tricks, the ace of diamonds and all three trumps.

Though the hand is not recorded trick for trick, we can assume the play went something like this: West led the ace of diamonds and continued diamonds to dummy's king. South discarded a club on the king of diamonds and another club on the ace of spades. Thinking that West held all three high trumps, he now tried a cross-ruff. He ruffed a spade in his hand and led the king of clubs, covered by the ace and ruffed in dummy. Next came a diamond (an error), ruffed in the South hand. Then the queen of clubs was cashed. There now remained only two losing clubs in the South hand.

Declarer led a club and ruffed low in dummy. East overruffed with the nine of hearts and returned a diamond. South ruffed low, and Leventritt overruffed with the jack of hearts. Then he returned a club and East overruffed dummy's 10 of hearts with the king for the setting trick.

Readers may contact Matthew Granovetter by email at gran@nvision.net.il

Chess

A Scotsman's speciality

By MICHEL SHORT

Scotland may have voted in favor of devolution, but in chess, at least, they have long held outright independence.

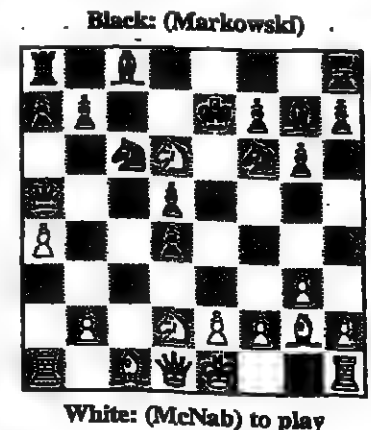
It would be fallacious to draw too many parallels between chess and politics, but I merely observe that it is far from clear that independence has served Scottish players well. The most damning statistic is the fact that there is not a single Scot (or Welshman for that matter — they also have a separate organization) among the top 20 British players. Funding has been a major problem. At the European Team Championships in Pola this year so many of the top Scottish players were absent (professionals do need to eat occasionally) that their team had a struggle to avoid last place.

Criticism aside, Scotland does possess one fairly promising young talent in the shape of Jonathan Rowson, in addition to the two established grandmasters, Paul Motwani and Colin McNab. Here is a forceful victory by McNab from a recent tournament in Koszalin, Poland.

White: McNab
Black: Markowski
Koszalin, 1997

1. e4 g6 2. g3 Bg7 3. Bg2 c5 4. Nf3 Ne5 5. Nc3 e6 6. d4! This surprising thrust is something of a McNab speciality. White exploits the vulnerability of the d6 square by clever tactical means. 6...cxd4 7. Nb5 d5 8. Bf7 9. d6 8. Nfxd4 leads to a pleasant edge. 8...cxd5 Qa5+ 8...exd5 9. Qxb1 10. dxc6 Ne7 happened in McNab-Wojtkiewicz, London 1990. This looks incredibly risky as the continuation shows 11. a4 Qb4 12. b3 Nxc6 13. Ba3 Qe5 14. 0-0 Bf8 15. Nc4 Qd8, but somehow black survived the opening.

Doubtless there is an improvement for white somewhere. 10. a4! An innovation. McNab-Coleman Eastbourne 1990 had instead gone 10. Nf6+ Ke7 11. Nxc8+ Rxc8 12. 0-0 Nf6 which was rather unclear. 10...Nf6? One mistake in a sharp position is ample cause for defeat. Black would have been well advised to retreat his queen, eg. 10...Qd8 11. Nb3 (11. Bxd5 a6!) 11...Nge7 which is more or less satisfactory. 11. Nf6+ Ke7



White: (McNab) to play

12. b4!! A superb line-opening idea highlighting the exposed black king. 12...Nxb4 13. Ba3 Qe5 14. Qb3 15. Qxd6 either 14. Rb1 or 14. Qb3 lead to a savage attack. 14. Nb5 Kd8 14...Nc2+? 15. Qxc2! 15. Nb3 Qe7 16. Qd2 a5 An unsatisfactory attempt to bolster the wobbly knight on b4 but 16...Bf8 17. 0-0 was also catastrophic. 17. Nxa5 Bf8 18. 0-0 18. Rb1 Ne4 19. Bxe4 Qxe4 20. 0-0 was also pretty strong. The text involves a sacrifice. 18. Rxa5 19. Qxd4 Ra6 20. Racl intending to penetrate deeply on c7. Bb7 21. Qf4 With 22. Qf8+ threatened and 21...Ra8 allowing 22. Bxb4 Qxb4 23. Qxf6+ black resigned.

© Telegraph Group



Oriental Mystique

Asian-inspired formulas will become very pleasing to your senses.

Here are a few examples. (The prices have deliberately been excluded because there are currently so many specials on the market that any price listed is bound to prove incorrect.)

To celebrate his 40th anniversary of creativity, Yves Saint Laurent has produced In Love Again, an eau de toilette that is the most sensual and the strongest of the fragrances mentioned here. In Love Again has a very fruity, floral, almost intoxicating aroma, and is certainly a captivating and appropriate way to mark a career milestone.

The Algerian-born YSL began his journey to fame in 1958 as an assistant to Christian Dior and quickly made his own mark in Paris and the world.

Mitsouko by Guerlain is a clear case of what goes around comes around. An intriguing balance of fruit, flower and spice aromas. Mitsouko has a clean, fresh scent, even though it has been around for a long time. Guerlain has travelled the Asian perfume trail for decades and concocted Mitsouko as far back as 1919. The fragrance is now back in new, updated packaging. Some other companies are re-releasing

once-popular fragrances that lost their initial market appeal under new names. Anyone who has been around long enough will detect a nostalgic ambrosia, albeit under a different title. So if you had a favorite which disappeared from the shelves, but you remember the name of the manufacturer, take a good whiff. Your nostrils will recognize it again.

Bvlgari has come out with Black, a subtle and refined unisex fragrance with a distinctive urban ambience. Black comes in a spill-proof bottle encased in a black, rubberized band. Its composition, being neither too feminine nor too masculine, is just a pleasant androgynous mix. Full marks to Bvlgari for introducing a scent which relates so well to both Mars and Venus.

Contradiction, the latest in the range of Calvin Klein fragrance offerings, is probably his best to date. It is warm and woody, yet light, with a delicate undertone of jasmine which is included in its mid-notes. Its unusual quality may come from the Chinese eucalyptus and pepper flower which are blended in its top note. Discreet and elegant, it is totally evocative of the Orient.

Tiger, the newest fragrance in the Kenzo

Jungle series, is exactly what its name suggests — something wild and exciting, yet graceful — a sweet bouquet which combines the exotic scents of Asia in a tantalizing composition of spices, fruit, flowers and woods which include langkat from Japan, davana, sweetly scented tall grass, massoia

wood from New Guinea and cinnamon. Kenzo's Jungle Pour Homme is slightly different from most male fragrances. The combination of sweet lime, Brazilian tea, nutmeg, musk, mallow seeds, cedars from different parts of the world and other woods gives it a unique, sensual aroma with a less aggressive tang than is generally exuded by male fragrances.

Latitude Sport by Olivier de Kersauson initially comes on strong, then fades into a barely discernible, but pleasant, slightly sweet flavor with just the hint of a citrus tang resulting from a blend of Italian lemon, Guinea orange, Egyptian jasmine and Indonesian patchouli.

Spoil yourself (from left): Tiger, the newest fragrance in the Kenzo Jungle series; In Love Again, by Yves Saint Laurent; and Black by Bvlgari in its spill-proof bottle.



Flair

By Greer Fay Cashman

Even if you think you can't afford to buy expensive perfumes, you can still occasionally indulge yourself or someone you love. With taxes on perfumes on a downward spiral, special discount offers for the holidays, and the opportunity for installment payments via credit card, why deny yourself?

The interesting thing about the new season's scents is their oriental mystique. There is an exquisite, distinctly eastern flavor in the bouquet, a subtle fragrance that seems to come straight out of an Asian garden.

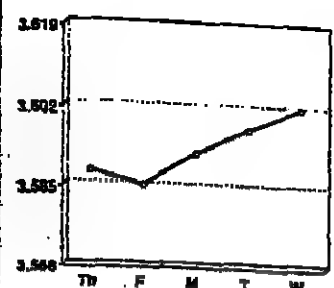
If your nose is accustomed to headier, heavier perfumes, you may not like this bewitching, almost elusive aroma with its frequently faint citrus cachet.

But give it a chance to entice you, and you'll discover that some if not all of the

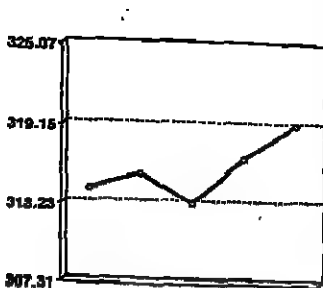
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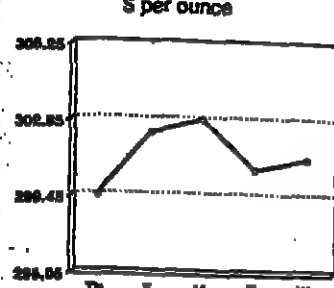
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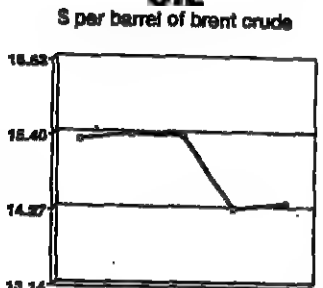
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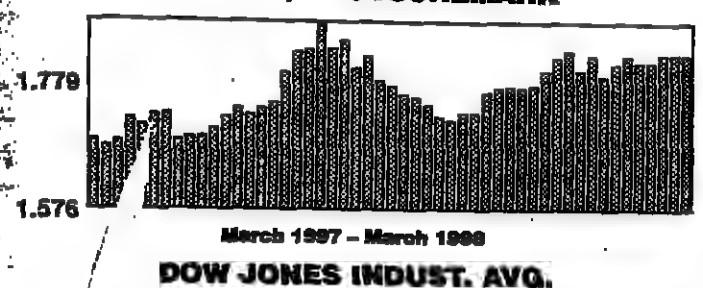
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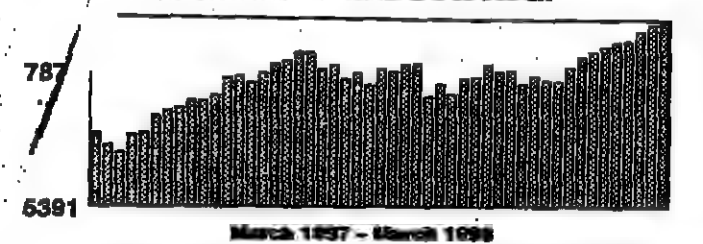
OIL



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Sales of new private apartments fall 8% in '97

Sales of new apartments in the private sector in the 24 main cities dropped 8 percent to 15,820 last year, compared to 17,100 in 1996, according to figures published yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics. In 1995, the total was 20,900. In the last quarter of 1997, there was an 18% decline (to 3,470) on the previous quarter and a 15% fall on the same months in 1996. *David Harris*

Sheraton Israel increases local interests

Sheraton Israel has signed a management contract to run the \$100 million City Tower Hotel and business complex at the Diamond Exchange in Ramat Gan, following a contract signed by the developers - Yitzhak Tabuwa, Uri Dori and Yuli Ofer - with Rafi Winer, managing director of Sheraton Israel, which is owned by Koor Tourism and Sheraton International. The project includes a 200-room hotel with a congress center to be called the Sheraton City Tower, and a deluxe apartment complex with a separate lobby. The hotel is due to open by June and the remainder of the complex by the end of the year. *Haim Shapiro*

High-tech delegation visits from North Carolina

A delegation of senior officials from high-tech industries in North Carolina is expected today for discussions about advancing cooperation with Israel. One of their main aims is to present the wide-band communications network in use in North Carolina. The Industry and Trade and Infrastructure ministries are working on a plan to try the system on a trial basis. *Nina Gilbert*

Nation's first Marriott hotel to open this summer

Israel's first Marriott hotel, the 258 Nazareth Marriott Hotel, is to open in mid-1998 following a franchise agreement between Marriott International and HET Mid-East Hotel, Ltd. Marriott Lodging is currently represented here by the Tel Aviv Ramada and the Renaissance Jerusalem. The company has 14 properties in the Middle East and is planning to open seven more by 2000. Among them is to be a 212-room hotel at the Dead Sea in Jordan. *Haim Shapiro*

IAI seeks new accord with banks

By STEVE RODAN

Israel Aircraft Industries Ltd. is seeking a new accord with its creditor banks that would allow the government company to free up some of its \$400 million in deposits to resolve its short-term debts and pay suppliers.

The accord is one of the company's chief goals for 1998 as it seeks to increase its profits and sales, a senior executive said.

Despite a profit of \$30 million in 1997, IAI was plagued by cash-flow problems and twice had to

seek government help to ensure that suppliers would be paid. Executives said the problem stems from an arrangement IAI has with its creditor banks that lock the revenues of each project into a separate account. As a result, funds acquired from one project cannot be used for anything else.

Executives said IAI has close to \$400 million in bank accounts that are essentially frozen. "This is a situation that must change," an executive said, "and we are sure this will happen during the course of the year."

IAI expects a better 1998. Executives told the company's board of directors on Tuesday that the company hopes to reach \$1.75 billion in sales this year, up from \$1.69b. in 1997.

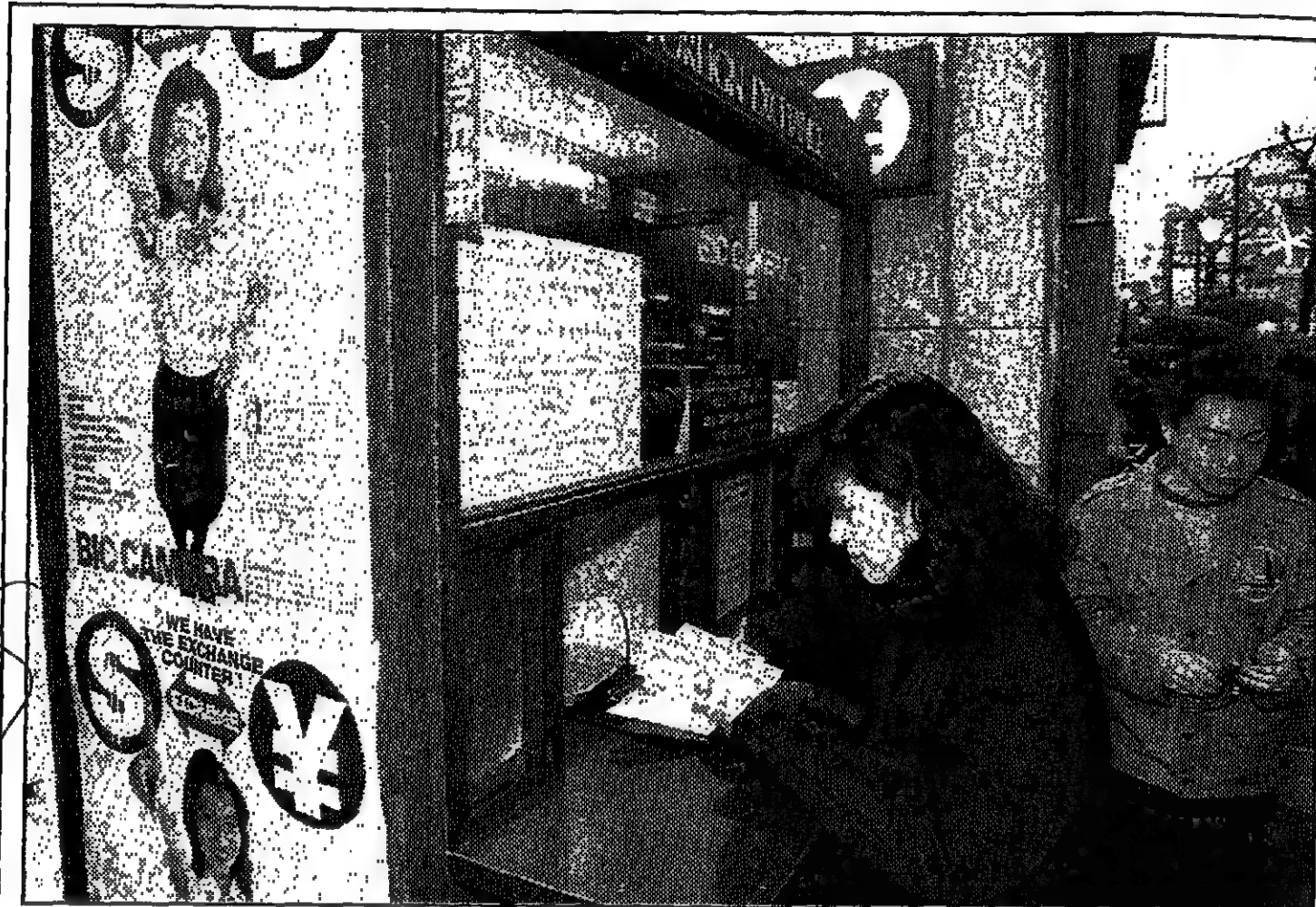
Profit is expected to increase slightly to \$35 million, up from \$30m. IAI executives said their goal is to accumulate \$200m. in profits by the end of 2000. During that year, they said, they expect sales to reach \$2b., with 40 percent of that in the civilian sector. The executives said they don't expect the financial crisis in Asia

to affect IAI sales. Sales to Asia have grown steadily since 1993, when sales from the region comprised 12% of total revenues, to 23% this year. The executives, who recently returned from an air show in Singapore, said IAI customers have not cancelled any deals since the crisis.

The IAI plan for 1998 does not envision a reduction of its workforce of more than 14,100. Executives said the wave of dismissals ended at the end of 1996 and expect that the current staff level will continue through 2000.

The plan also does not foresee privatization of either the entire company or any of its subsidiaries before the end of 2000. IAI chairman Avigdor Ben-Gal, however, said the company is working on a long-term strategic plan that envisions major changes in IAI's structure by 2015. He would not elaborate.

An IAI executive, however, said the key to the company's future is the government. "They are the owners and they will make the decisions," he said. "So far, it hasn't told us what it wants."



Japan relaxes forex controls

A Japanese woman exchanges yen for dollars at a newly opened foreign exchange booth at a shop in Tokyo. Japan yesterday started to implement steps aimed at liberalizing its financial markets to make them free, fair and global by 2001. *(Reuters)*

First-quarter budget deficit NIS1.25b.

By DAVID HARRIS

The domestic budget deficit (excluding granted net credit) totaled NIS 1.256 billion in the first quarter, according to initial estimates published yesterday by the Treasury. In March, there was a surplus of NIS 142 million.

The quarterly figure shows a slight deviation from the Treasury forecast, because of a shortfall in revenues.

The overall deficit, which also includes activities overseas, came in at NIS 2.259b. for the quarter and NIS 473m. (excluding granted net credit) in March.

For the entire year, the government has set a target budget deficit of 2.4 percent of the gross domestic product, which amounts to NIS 9.192b. (excluding granted net credit), compared to last year's target of 2.8% of GDP or NIS 9.744b. Last year, the government succeeded in cutting the overall budget deficit to 2.4% of GDP - the target set for this year.

The main reason for last year's cut in the budget deficit was the NIS 8.5b. earned from privatization, particularly the sale of the government's interest in Bank Hapoalim. The government, through MLI Holdings, the company charged with selling state-owned banks, has already indicated it will continue this process this year, with receipts continuing to fund government debt.

Given the ongoing slowdown and lower-than-expected rate of inflation, Treasury officials expect both income and expenditure to be lower than forecast throughout the year.

A major factor contributing to the March surplus was privatization receipts of NIS 1.34m.

Meanwhile, the Bank of Israel yesterday announced that foreign currency reserves shrank \$209m. in March, registering \$21,603m. at the end of the month. The central bank said the decrease was because of government expenditure overseas, which was offset in part by Bank of Israel foreign currency revenues.

EU to probe Israel-PA cumulation

By DAVID HARRIS

Within the next fortnight, the European Commission and Council of Ministers will begin internal discussions on formulating a policy on customs benefits for goods jointly produced in Israel and the Palestinian Authority-controlled areas, according to a commission official in Brussels.

The Industry and Trade Ministry and the Manufacturers Association have been pushing Europe for some time to offer reduced tariffs for such goods, as it already does for items

produced entirely in either Israel or the Palestinian areas.

"The issues at stake are not just political," said the commission official. "There are several technical aspects that need sorting. The same rules of origin must apply in the countries involved. We're more likely to see [lower tariffs] where there is cumulation between Israel and Jordan sooner than between Israel and the Palestinian Authority."

The issues the official was referring to include the fact that while the Palestinian areas are perceived

as developing, Israel is formally defined as a developed nation.

Meanwhile, in Israel there is continued debate as to how to approach the topic of cumulation. The Manufacturers Association favors pushing for cumulation rules to be applied to the soon-to-be-opened Karni industrial park in Gaza. At the moment Brussels says it is not possible to offer favorable trade conditions to a small pocket of a much larger geographic area.

For its part, the Foreign Ministry opposes the principle of cumulation, as it implies borders already

exist between Israel and the Palestinian areas.

A senior Italian diplomat last week told *The Jerusalem Post* that "we tell our Israeli friends... these legal arguments should be set aside. Maybe we can change the words but the substance must remain the same."

One Brussels-based civil servant said lawyers may be able to put forward compromise proposals that would avoid the political issue of sovereignty but still offer discounted export terms for jointly produced goods.

Elco aims to buy factories in Asia

By NINA GILBERT

Elco Industries Ltd. is scouting southeast Asia to buy existing plants or to enter into joint ventures as part of its aim to find alternative markets and especially to expand in Asia, Elco Group CEO Uri Kvatek said yesterday.

"The southeast Asian crisis has created a great opportunity for investment," he said. He said it is more likely that the company would buy an existing plant.

Officials from the company have visited Thailand and South Korea in search of such opportunities. Thailand in particular has been identified by the company as having great market potential. According to Kvatek, Thailand now has only double the power capability of Israel but its population is tenfold, leaving great opportunity for expansion.

"Manufacturing in foreign countries will enable us to exploit comparative advantage and establish a

marketing foothold," said Elco Industries CEO Ephraim Katz.

Elco Industries manufactures products for electrical infrastructure, including power and distribution transformers for substations and industry, mobile substations and a range of power electronic components. "The company, part of the Elco Group which includes Electra (Israel) Ltd., Electra Consumer Products, and the Shekhem chain, was able to make a significant step towards the export market in 1997."

"Exports in 1997 were \$5 million, after a negligible amount in previous years," Kvatek said. At present, orders for substitution components are being shipped to Thailand and Nigeria. Other export markets include Uruguay and the United States.

As part of the group's strategy to enter into new markets and lower labor costs, Electra Consumer Products is establishing a \$6m. air-conditioning factory in India.

Telecom conference marred by dispute over status of PA

By NINA GILBERT

VALLETTA (Reuters) - Arab-Israeli arguments on the status of the Palestinian Authority yesterday threatened to delay the end of a 10-day conference on world telecommunications development being held in Malta.

A group of mostly Arab countries on Tuesday introduced a draft resolution calling for the PA to have its own international code, proceed on its own frequency assignments, have its own call signs, and be admitted as a member of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU),

where it now has observer status.

Israel and the US opposed the draft, with Israel arguing that telecommunications in the Palestinian areas are governed by an interim five-year agreement based on the Oslo Accords.

The draft resolution responded to a statement by Israel last week that any attempt by either party unilaterally to alter the interim agreement or invite international bodies to do so could only undermine progress in the Middle East peace negotiations. Its sponsors insist the ITU has

the authority to discuss the development of telecommunications by the Palestinians and that technical and financial assistance should be given for this development in Gaza and the West Bank.

Conference sources said corridor negotiations on the draft resolution had not produced results.

Sponsors of the draft resolution were Saudi Arabia, the Comoros Islands, Djibouti, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Morocco, Mauritania, Qatar, Syria, Sudan, Tunisia, and Yemen.

Swissair seeks to increase flights here

By NINA GILBERT

Swissair would like to increase its weekly flights to Israel from 10 to 16, company president Jeffrey Katz told reporters at Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday.

"We would like to have two flights a day to Zurich," Katz said. He noted that together with its two weekly flights to Geneva, this would come to 16 flights. He

admitted that this would be more flights than any other European carrier, but said he believes there is a market for the flights.

The obstacle to increasing flights is the Civil Aviation Administration, which guards the interests of El Al, he said. So far, the CAA had not refused Swissair's request, but it has not given its approval.

In a meeting with El Al director-general Yoel Feldschuh, Katz said, the two spoke about possible cooperation between the two airlines. "El Al is clearly interested in code-sharing agreements and

Swissair is a candidate," he said.

Katz admitted that if it was only a question of bringing Swiss passengers to Israel, there would be no difficulty in increasing the number of flights. The problem, he said, is that the Swiss airline carries a considerable number of passengers to and from destinations further afield, particularly in North America. It also has a large number of Israelis as passengers.

He added that the airline has set no deadline for its request and that the earliest it can schedule the additional flights is the end of the year.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT Tender 1/98

Tender for Submission of Proposals for the Construction and Supply of an Oil Combat Vessel

1. The Israel Ministry of Environment (hereinafter "MOE"), hereby requests bids for the design, construction and supply of an Oil Spill Response Vessel suitable for cleaning oil spills in the coastal waters of Israel, in the Gulf of Aqaba and in the Mediterranean Sea. The vessel will be made of aluminum or fiberglass (GRP) at an approximate length of 15 meters, propelled by two diesel motors and two water jets and will attain a maximum speed of 25 knots, all in accordance with and subject to the terms and conditions specified in the Tender documents.

2. The Tender documents may be purchased for NIS 1,750 from the MOE Marine & Coastal Dept., 3 Chilat St., Haifa, Israel. Telephone: 072-4-3522702, Fax: 072-4-3523524. Payment should be made by check executed in favor of Marine Pollution Prevention Fund. The said fee will not be returned. Foreign bidders may request to have the Tender documents sent abroad, for an additional fee of \$30 US dollars. In such case the documents will be sent after receipt of payment by the Marine and Coastal Dept.

3. The MOE is not obligated to accept the most inexpensive bid, nor any bid which may be submitted. The MOE is not obligated to accept any bid in its entirety or any portion thereof and is entitled, at its unrestricted discretion, to accept only selected portions of the bid and to order other part of the Work from other bidders. The MOE reserves the right to negotiate with any of the bidders whose bids have been found suitable.

4. Bids must include a Participatory Guarantee executed in favor of the Marine Pollution Prevention Fund, valid until October 9, 1998 in the sum of 10% of the Price Proposal. The Guarantee must be unconditional and drawn on an Israeli Bank. The Guarantee will be replaced with a Performance Guarantee and Maintenance Guarantee, as detailed in the Tender.

5. Bids must include a copy of any official registration document required by law, as detailed in Tender documents.

6. The bids will be evaluated according to the following criteria: price (50%) and overall quality of bids (50%), comprising of 25% compliance with terms of the Tender, 13% previous experience with building of similar vessels, including recommendations, 7% service conditions and guarantees, 5% overall quality of bid.

7. The duration of the contract signed with the winning bidder will be 12 months from signing of Contract.

8. The bid must be submitted in 4 copies in a closed envelope prior to 15:00 on July 9, 1998, at the MOE, Room 094, 5 Karmel Neesharim St., Jerusalem.

PSAGOT NOTIFICATION

of a special offer in the Psagot Globe- Mutual Fund

We hereby announce a special offer in accordance with the above prospectus from April 6, 1998 to April 28, 1998.

The Fund Manager will offer units in said fund at the unit price plus a 0.25% increment.

Manager: Psagot Managers of Mutual Funds- Leumi Igud Ltd.

Trustee: Kesselman & Kesselman Trust Company (1971) Ltd.

Want to keep in close touch with your securities till 11 PM?



JOIN 108 TELEBANK
DIAL 03-5199111 FROM 8 AM TO 11 PM.
ISRAELI DISCOUNT BANK

PRIME פריים

Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 31.3.98
Purchase Price: 118.52
Redemption Price: 117.88



TARGET טרגט

Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 31.3.98
Purchase Price: 134.75
Redemption Price: 133.74



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9200	0.25

Ametek Inc	29.8125	-0
Amgen	60.0625	-0

Int'l Play & Fr	47.
Int'l Markets	50.4

+0.25
 +0.5

42.1875	+2.125
17.9375	+0.0625
61	+0.75

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agement from the CIPS survey. The seasonally adjusted overall index, collated from purchasing managers, rose to 52.2 in March, up from 51.0 in February. A reading above 50.0 indicates manufacturing is expanding as domestic demand outweighed a drop in exports.

Asia

Asian stocks fell, led by Japan where the Nikkei 225 index started the new business year at a 5-week low, weighed down by Daichi Corp.'s decision to liquidate. The pioneering real-estate broker's announcement sent shares of Mitsui Trust & Banking Co., Yasuda Trust & Banking Co. and other banks reeling. Coupled with Tuesday's failed bid by the Japanese government to pump up the Nikkei, the benchmark index fell 285.51 points, or 1.73 percent, to 16,241.66, its lowest since February 24.

"It's purely economic — everyone thinks the place has gone to hell," said Pelham Smithers, a strategist at ING Baring Securities (Japan) Ltd. "We're still seeing selling coming from overseas investors on their downward views of the market."

In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng Index fell 1.63%, led by HSBC Holdings Plc. and Hutchison

Whampoa Ltd., as interest rates rose to a two-week high.

Benchmark indexes also tumbled in Singapore, South Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan and the Philippines, following a drop in the yen and currencies across southeast Asia. Japan's own economic slump has dimmed any prospects that it could act as savior to its struggling Asian neighbors.

"If the Japanese can't even help themselves, how can you expect them to help the others?" said Alan Ang, an Asian currencies trader at Citicorp in Boston in Singapore.

The Tokyo stock market's fall also reflected expectations that the "tankan" survey, to be released by the Bank of Japan today, will paint a grim portrait of business sentiment. (Bloomberg)

Wall Street

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Stocks powered ahead on the first day of a new quarter yesterday as investors got more good news about the economy.

Based on early, unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial average ended up 68.51 points at 8,868.32, building on a gain of more than 11 percent in the just-completed first quarter.

dollar is "excessively weak." He had warned yesterday Japan will take action to prevent the yen from sinking too low.

Sakakibara also said the finance ministers of the Group of Seven industrialized nations will discuss foreign exchange when they meet in Washington later this month. When the G-7 met in London in February, its members agreed the yen shouldn't weaken too much, because an excessive depreciation would increase Japan's trade surplus.

"Sakakibara's comments knocked the dollar lower," said Ed Garston, a currency analyst at market research firm I.D.E.A.

"But I don't think it's enough to turn around the long-term trend of yen weakness."

In Germany, speculation the European Union's proposed single currency, the euro, will be less stable than the mark has pulled the German currency lower. Expectations German interest rates won't be raised soon also weighed on the mark.

The mark has fallen more than 1 percent since Germany's Bundesbank warned in a report last week that Belgian and Italian debt must be cut to maintain stability in Europe's planned economic and monetary union.

(Bloomberg)

Asian shipping delays

Ivory Coast. Coffee growers in Vietnam and the Ivory Coast, who had been hoarding coffee due to expectations that prices would fall, sold more coffee yesterday than in recent weeks, encouraged by news that shippers in London

2,300 metric tons to 93,200 tons on Tuesday, the exchange said in its latest warehouse report issued yesterday. Refiners of lead have been forced to draw on exchange stocks in recent weeks due to lean supplies of lead scrap. Milder

office for May delivery, the most lucrative contract, fell \$18 to \$1,823 a metric ton on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange.

White sugar fell on reduced concern that heavy rain will delay the 1998-99 crop harvest in Brazil, the world's largest producer. While concern over delays to Brazil's next sugar harvest has boosted sugar prices in recent days, some areas of central southern Brazil haven't been as badly affected as others by the recent heavy rain, analysts said. White sugar for May delivery fell \$2.10 to \$267.80 a metric ton on Liffe.

Lead rose as stockpiles of the metal in London Metal Exchange-registered warehouses slumped. LME lead inventories declined

than-normal weather this winter has led to fewer malfunctions in car batteries, the main source of lead scrap.

Tin rose as stockpiles of the metal held in London Metal Exchange-registered warehouses fell to their lowest level in more than eight years. The LME tin stockpile declined 95 metric tons to 7,310 tons, the lowest level since October 27, 1989. While global stockpiles of tin held by producers, consumers and merchants are reported to be in adequate supply, the LME inventory figure is a key element because it shows how much refined metal is immediately available to the market, analysts said. Tin for delivery in three months rose \$5 to \$5,640 a metric ton on the LME. (Bloomberg)

Investors are also looking ahead to an employment report tomorrow that's expected to show the economy gained jobs at a slower pace last month. That would be good news for investors looking for signs that Asia's slumping economies are helping curb US growth and contain inflation.

"We've got a little bit of time to be what the data from Asia's economy to mean" for the US economy, said Todd Barre, who helps manage \$10 billion at Harris Bank in Chicago. He currently favors bonds that offer more yield than treasuries, such as debt of government-sponsored enterprises and doesn't think Asia's woes will have a big impact on US growth.

Sava 767-4555, Hadara 634-6789.

Crisis Center for Religious Women
Tel 635-5744/5: 24-hour service, confidentiality guaranteed.

Wizo hotlines for battered women
Tel 625-4111, 03-546-1133, 07-637-2310, 08-855-0506.

Rape Crisis Center (24 hours)
Tel 523-4819, 544-9191 (men), Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 853-0533, Tel 633-1977.

Hadassah Medical Organization - Israel Cancer Association support service, 02-624-7676.

Flight arrivals - for information in English 03-972-3344.

WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged NIS 28.06 per line, including VAT. The first day of the month costs NIS 520.85 per line, including VAT, per month.

TOMORROW, the government is likely to report the economy added 232,000 jobs in March, leaving the unemployment rate at 4.6%, according to analysts. The economy added 310,000 jobs in February. Employment results have come in stronger than expected for the last four months.

"The economy is hot as a pistol," said William Dawson, who oversees about \$76 million in bonds at Federated Investors in Pittsburgh.

Still Dawson said portfolio managers at his firm are taking advantage of any rise in yields toward 6% to add bonds to their portfolio, in the expectation the economy will slow in the months ahead.

(Bloomberg)

JERUSALEM
Conducted Tours
HEBREW UNIVERSITY, Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun.-Thur., 11 a.m. from Bronman Reception Center, Sherman Administration Bldg. Buses 4, 9, 23, 26, 28. For info, call (02) 588-2819.

HADASSAH, Visit the Hadassah installations, Chagall Windows. Tel. (01) 641-6333, (02) 677-6271.

TEL AVIV
Museums
TEL AVIV MUSEUM, Dani Karavan, Homage to Walter Benjamin, Yehozkel Strechman, Great Moments, 150 works. Surrealism, Prints from the Charles and Evelyn Kramer Collection. **HELENA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART**, Contemporary Greek Art: Three Generations. Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tel. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center, Tel. 081-9155/8.

CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The final gala evening and award ceremony of the Ninth International Arur Rubinstein Master Piano Competition will conclude this most exciting event tonight (8:30) at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv in which the winners, after receiving their prizes, will present a recital, probably from the works they have performed in the first two stages of the competition. One of the winners of the competition will present a recital on Saturday (8:30) at the Jaffa Music Center.

The Art of Composition Towards the 21st Century symposium at the Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music and Dance concludes today with discussions about tradition and change in the curriculum (9:30 a.m.) and a concert of world premieres by graduates of the Hochschule für Musik in Würzburg and Berlin performed by the Ensemble for Contemporary Music, Würzburg (8:30) at the Wise Auditorium in Jerusalem.

Young and very talented Israeli oboist Roni Gal-Ed is back in the country, after too long an absence, for a concert at the Jerusalem Music Center tomorrow (noon) in which she is joined by bassoonist Ilan Yosev and pianist Yehonatan Anner playing music by Poulenc, Jolivet, Debussy and others. The concert will also be broadcast live on the Voice of Music radio.

The Israel Sinfonietta Beersheba opens a series of concerts in Eilat on Saturday (9) under the baton of music director Uri Mayer, leading the orchestra in a program of various concert with Sinfonietta members as soloists.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

*** THE THIEF — A nominee for this year's best foreign-language film Oscar, Pavel Chukhrai's movie tells the deceptively simple story of the angry love a young boy feels for the dashing con man who wins and breaks the heart



Israeli oboist Roni Gal-Ed plays at the Jerusalem Music Center tomorrow.

of his widowed mother. For all its carefully observed Oedipal specifics, the movie also functions on the grander, symbolic level of national psychodrama. In a strong though understated way that perhaps only a Russian filmmaker would dare, *The Thief* is as much a reckoning with the emotional legacy of Stalinism as it is the tale of one child's difficult coming of age. With an amazing performance by the young Misha Philipchuk, whose presence is so unadorned and guileless, he hardly seems to be acting at all. (Russian dialogue, Hebrew and English subtitles. Parental guidance strongly advised.)

TV

CHANNEL 1 (11)

8:30 News Flash
8:45 News in Arabic
9:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 Animation
9:55 Eric's World
10:20 Fairy Tale Theater
11:15 Glad Rags
11:40 Bob of Delight
12:15 Moby
14:30 Running the Halls
15:00 Escape from Jupiter

CHANNEL 1 (11)

18:30 Zap 1 and Super Ben
19:00 X Man
19:30 Super Groove
19:50 Stories That Last
20:00 A New Evening
20:10 Click and Zap
20:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Meeting Point
19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS

18:30 News Flash
19:30 Local Pop
19:50 Filmed on the Street
20:00 News
20:45 Press Conference — with Shelly Yehonatan
21:30 The Art of Rubinstein Competition
— A recording of the final stage of the grip competition
22:00 Where Were We?
22:30 News
00:00 Time for Language

CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's programs
6:00 On the Edge of the Shell
6:00 Cave Kids
6:30 Rainbow Children
6:45 This Morning
6:50 Mike Michael
6:55 The Hunchback of Notre Dame
10:54 La Gendarme de Saint Tropez
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13:00 Boogie's Dinner
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00:00 News
00:05 Her Hidden Truth, cont'd.
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2:30 Anything But Love
2:30 Local Broadcast
3:19 On the Edge of the Shell

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Sports Editors

Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Del Piero
hat trick
gives
Juventus
4-1 winBroken goal delays
Real-Dortmund kickoff

TURIN (Reuters) — An inspired Alessandro Del Piero scored a set-piece hat-trick as Juventus beat Monaco 4-1 last night to take a giant step towards their third consecutive European Cup final.

The Italy striker put Juventus ahead after 33 minutes with a breathtaking freekick from 25 meters which fizzed into the top right hand corner of Fabien Barthez's goal.

A lively Monaco equalized in the 45th minute through Portuguese substitute Francisco Da Costa but Del Piero restored his side's lead from the penalty spot seconds later after Zinedine Zidane had been tripped in the box by Barthez.

Juventus tightened their grip on the tie in the second half and won their second penalty of the night when Monaco defender Philippe Christiaen tripped striker Filippo Inzaghi as he headed for goal.

Del Piero scored from the spot to complete his hat-trick and take his tally in this season's competition to nine.

The 23-year-old striker then turned provider in the closing minutes, setting up Zidane to score Juventus's 500th goal in European competition to seal the victory.

Real Madrid-Borussia Dortmund
The start of the semifinal first leg between Real Madrid and Borussia Dortmund of Germany was delayed for 75 minutes last night when one of the goals collapsed just before the kickoff.

The goal frame was attached to perimeter fencing and when boisterous Madrid fans shook the fence the goal crashed to the ground.

Part of the fencing shot back into the crowd and witnesses said several fans were injured. One man was left with a bloody gash across his face.

Police in riot gear cleared the area immediately behind the goal and formed a cordon between the crowd and the pitch. At least one man was detained.

The posts were broken at the base and the stanchions buckled, leaving a group of stewards holding the goal in place.

Both teams returned to the changing rooms while officials attempted to repair the goal. However, after nearly 30 minutes they gave up and instead waited for the arrival of a replacement from the club's training ground, about four miles across the city.

Azharuddin sets
one-day match
record

COCHIN, India (Reuters) — Mohammad Azharuddin, playing his 274th one-day match, set a record yesterday for the most one-day internationals.

He overtook former Australian skipper Allan Border, who played 273 one-dayers.

Indian captain Azharuddin led India to a 41-run win over Australia in the opening game of the triangular tournament in the southern Indian city of Cochin. He made his one-day debut in 1985 in Melbourne against Pakistan.

SCOREBOARD

BRITISH SOCCER — Division One: Nottingham Forest 3, Sheffield United 0; Queens Park Rangers 0, Wolves 0; Scottish Premier: Rangers 3, Hibernian 0.

Thousands cheer Rios at Chile homecoming

SANTIAGO (Reuters) — Marcelo "Chino" Rios, Latin America's first tennis player to be ranked No. 1 in the world, was given a hero's welcome in Chile yesterday, briefly returning to his homeland to be greeted by thousands of flag-waving fans.

Some 5,000 supporters gathered to honor their idol in front of the La Moneda presidential palace where the 22-year-old left-hander and his family were received by President Eduardo Frei.

Rios stepped out onto one of presidential balconies and waved to his cheering fans. Some had waited more than four hours to catch a glimpse of the pony-tailed player.

Looking bemused by the euphoria generated by his handing the country its most notable sporting success, Rios, hands on hips, was joined by his father Jorge, mother Alicia and sister Paula on the

McGwire, Griffey start off with a bang

Opening Day: Reds' SS ties gaffe mark, Mets win in 14th, expansion teams lose

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Mark McGwire started the season with a bang, hitting a grand slam in the fifth inning off Ramon Martinez and leading the Cardinals to a 6-0 win over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Tuesday.

A sellout crowd of 47,972 on Opening Day screamed in anticipation when Delino DeShields walked on a full count to load the bases with McGwire on deck. McGwire didn't disappoint them, hitting a towering drive that cleared the left-field wall and broke open a scoreless game.

McGwire, who also doubled, overshadowed a strong performance from winner Todd Stottlemyre. The St. Louis starter gave up three hits in seven-plus innings and didn't allow a runner past second base.

McGwire, expected to challenge Roger Maris' home-run record of 61 in this expansion year, is the first Cardinals player to hit a grand slam on opening day.

Padres 10, Reds 2

Pokey Reese tied an Opening-Day record for shortstops with four errors, helping San Diego and new-comer Kevin Brown roll to a road victory.

Brown, one of a dozen players discarded by the Florida Marlins after their World Series title, gave up one run and five hits in 6 1/3 innings and hit a three-run double in the seventh.

Reese put the Padres ahead to stay by committing four errors in the first three innings, tying the record for gaffes a shortstop in a season opener set by the Chicago Cubs' Lou Stringer in his major league debut on April 15, 1941.

Mets 1, Phillies 0 (14)

Pinch-hitter Alberto Castillo's single with two outs and the bases loaded gave New York a home victory.

Matt Franco opened the 14th with a single off loser Ricky Bottalico and became just the third Met to reach second base when McRae walked. After a forceout at third, Bernard Gilkey singled for what should have been the game-winning hit to left, but McRae lost his footing and fell rounding third.

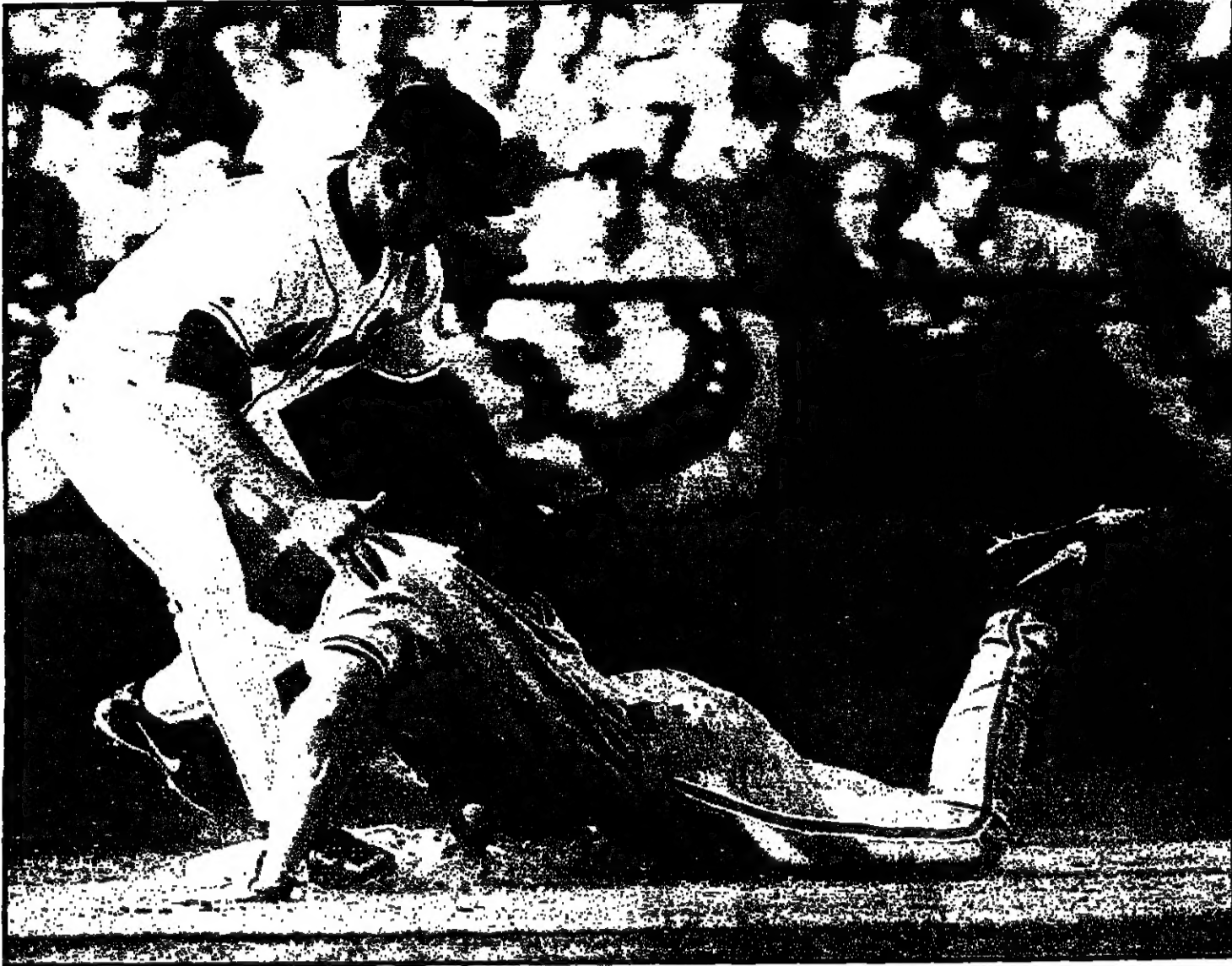
The Mets dugout, which had spilled onto the field to celebrate Gilkey's hit, retreated and waited. Luis Lopez popped up for the second out, and it looked like the marathon would continue when Castillo finally ended it with a single to right on a full-count pitch.

Braves 2, Brewers 1

Gerald Williams trotted home from third after catcher Mike Matheny's attempted pickoff throw skipped into left field in the bottom of the ninth inning, giving the Braves a season-opening victory over Milwaukee, the Brewers' first National League game after 28 years in the American League.

The Brewers, the first major league baseball team to switch leagues since the 1892 season, talked repeatedly about the need to play solid, fundamental baseball in the NL, but they got sloppy in the ninth.

Williams, a former Brewer, walked with one out in the ninth



HUSTLER — Phillies baserunner Scott Rolen advances to third on a sixth-inning single by Mike Lieberthal. Mets 3B Edgardo Alfonzo takes the late throw. New York won 1-0 in 14 innings.

and took third when another pinch-hitter, Keith Lockhart, singled to center. Loser Bob Wickman struck out Andrew Jones, but Matheny went to third when Lockhart broke for second on the pitch.

Marlins 11, Cubs 6
The World Series champions and their revamped roster that includes no less than 14 rookies scored six runs in the first inning en route to a routing of the Chicago Cubs.

Series MVP Liván Hernandez won despite allowing five runs in 5 1/3 innings, mainly because Gary Sheffield and Charles Johnson hit three-run homers.

It was a familiar start for the Cubs, who set an NL record with an 0-14 start en route to a last-place finish in 1997.

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Chicago 000 070 101-9 13 0
Texas 000 000 020-2 8 0
New York 000 000 000-0 12 2
Seattle 000 000 000-0 12 2
Navy, Shuey (5), Mesa (7), Asenmacher (6), M. Johnson (5) and S. Alomar, Johnson, Ayala (6), F. Garcia (8), Timlin (8), Spillane (6) and D. Wilson, W. Mesa 1-0, L.-P. Mesa 0-1, S.-M. Johnson (1), H.R.-Cleveland, S. Alomar (1), Seattle, Griley Jr. (1), E. Martinez (1), Butler (1), R. Davis (1).

NATIONAL LEAGUE
St. Louis 000 000 000-0 10 1
Cincinnati 000 000 000-0 12 2
K. Brown, Boeschinger (7), Wongert (8) and C. Hernandez, Stottlemyre, Weathers (6), R. Johnson (7), G. Wright (7), Sullivan (6) and Taubensee, W.-K. Brown, 1-0, L.-Remlinger, 0-1, H.R.-San Diego, Givens (1), Jayne (1).
Philadelphia 000 000 000 00-0 9 0
New York 000 000 000 00-1 7 0
(14 innings)
Schilling, Spradlin (6), Brewer (10), M. Lillard (10), Gonzalez (1), Tampa Bay, Boggs (11).

Giants 9, Astros 4 (13)
Jeff Kent had a career-high five hits, including a three-run homer, as visiting San Francisco won its first opener since 1994.

With the score 4-0, loser C.J. Nitkowski walked Charlie Hayes leading off the 13th, and Hayes took third on Rey Sanchez's single. Darryl Hamilton grounded to shortstop Tim Bogar, who threw out Hayes at the plate as Sanchez took third.

Pinch-hitter Alex Diaz then singled off Bogar's glove to score the go-ahead run. Kent followed with an RBI double for a 6-4 lead. J.T. Snow was intentionally walked and Stan Javier hit a three-run double.

Royals 4, Orioles 1
Up until the first pitch, Andy

Benes, Matt Williams and host Arizona looked nothing like an expansion team.

Once Vinny Castilla and the Colorado Rockies got going, that's when the trouble started.

Castilla homered twice and drove in five runs and Darryl Kile pitched like the ace the Rockies expected as Colorado spoiled the Diamondbacks' debut with a 9-2 win on opening night.

The Diamondbacks matched the most-lopsided loss by an expansion team in its first game — the 1962 New York Mets and 1977 Seattle Mariners also lost their openers by seven runs.

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Royals 4, Orioles 1
Tim Belcher, starting in place of

White Sox 9, Rangers 2
Chicago's big three (Albert Belle,

the injured Kevin Appier, allowed three hits in seven scoreless innings as visiting Kansas City opened the season by beating Mike Mussina.

Rookie Larry Sutton drove in three runs and Jeff King went 2-for-2 and scored twice before leaving in the fourth inning with a sore back.

Baltimore lost despite 11 strikeouts in eight innings by Mussina, and the defeat ruined the debut of Orioles' manager Ray Miller, whose star-studded team is expected to make a third straight run at the playoffs. On this day, however, Baltimore's potent batting order was quiet against a 36-year-old pitcher who went 13-12 last year with a 5.02 ERA.

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Frank Thomas and Robin Ventura) drove in two runs each in a 9-2, season-opening away victory.

Jaime Navarro allowed just five hits in six innings, and Mike Cameron saved a home run when he leaped in left-center to snare a ninth-inning drive by Fernando Tatis that was headed over the wall.

Tigers 11, Devil Rays 6

Host Tampa Bay fell behind 11-0 in its first game as Joe Randa and Joe Oliver each drove in three runs and Luis Gonzalez hit a two-run homer.

Before a sellout crowd of 45,369 at Tropicana Field, Wade Boggs' two-run homer off winner Justin Thompson in the sixth inning was about all Devil Rays fans had to cheer following an hour-long pregame celebration of baseball's arrival in Florida's west coast.

Indians 10, Mariners 9

Ken Griffey Jr., Jay Buhner, Edgar Martinez and Russ Davis each homered, but visiting Cleveland rallied for four runs in the eighth inning against Seattle's shaky relievers to win on opening night.

Seattle's bullpen, which blew 27 save chances last season, betrayed manager Lou Piniella. Bobby Ayala, loser Tony Fossas and Mike Timlin combined to allowed two hits and five walks in the eighth.

Griffey, who hit 56 homers last season in becoming the AL MVP got his first 1998 home run off Charles Nagy in a six-run fifth inning.

But Randy Johnson, Seattle's opening-day starter for the sixth and presumably final time, also was ineffective. He allowed six runs and 11 hits and two walks in 5 1/3 innings.

National League

East Division

Atlanta 1 0 1.000 —
Florida 1 0 1.000 —
New York 0 0 .000 1/2
Houston 0 0 .000 1/2
Philadelphia 0 0 .000 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis 1 0 1.000 —
Pittsburgh 0 0 .000 1/2
Chicago 0 0 .000 1/2
Cincinnati 0 0 .000 1/2
Houston 0 0 .000 1/2
Milwaukee 0 0 .000 1/2

West Division

Colorado 1 0 1.000 —
San Diego 1 0 1.000 —
San Francisco 0 0 .000 1/2
Arizona 0 0 .000 1/2
Los Angeles 0 0 .000 1/2

American League

East Division

Boston 0 0 .000 —
New York 0 0 .000 —
Toronto 0 0 .000 —
Baltimore 0 0 .000 1/2
Tampa Bay 0 0 .000 1/2

Central Division

Chicago 1 0 1.000 —
Cleveland 1 0 1.000 —
Detroit 1 0 1.000 —
Kansas City 1 0 1.000 —
Minnesota 0 0 .000 1/2

West Division

Anaheim 0 0 .000 —
Oakland 0 0 .000 —
Seattle 0 0 .000 1/2
Texas 0 0 .000 1/2

The day Davey Johnson
got some revenge

Well, I don't know about you, but I'm sitting home in Winter Park, Florida, thinking, "Hey, you never saw me lose to the Royals on Opening Day." Who am I? Who do you think I am? Mr. Angelos' favorite whipping boy.

The 1997 American League Manager of the Year.

The one, the only, Davey Johnson. Played 18 Tuesday. Play 18 lots of days. Came home, asked Susan the score, thought, "Man, that sounds familiar." Don't ask me about the Orioles. I ain't got nothing to say.

But you know, I mean ... A \$68.7 million payroll, and you'd think that club could score more than one run.

How old is Tim Belcher, anyway? Thirty-six, it says here.

Old enough to play for the Orioles. Hey, that's just a joke. Maybe I'll tell some more for Fox, or ... "Course, I might never get behind a microphone.

Be a few teams calling soon, the way I'm reading these box scores.

The Orioles? Nah, I'm looking for a winner. Hey, it could be worse up there. Good thing Tampa Bay lost. And Detroit is out of the AL East. Good thing I'm not in Baltimore sitting on 0-1.

I mean, the pressure is on, you know what I'm saying? The pressure is on, and I'm sure (I'm manager) Ray (Miller) can handle it, even if he just lost his opener to Triple-A Omaha.

What was that score again? Oh yeah, 4-1. Guess Ray didn't get to pick his closer, did he? Me, I had Randy Myers. Usually had the late-inning lead, too, as I recall.

Has Palmeiro gotten a clutch hit yet? How about my good friend Alomar? I mean, I thought Game 6 of the American League Championship Series was over.

Ah, at least Mussina had it going. Good old Moose. Eleven strikeouts Tuesday. Ten in Game 6 against Cleveland. No walks either day. And no wins, either. That's baseball, I guess. But it's not my problem now, you know what I'm saying? Larry Sutton beats you, don't call me.

Dean Palmer steals two bases for the first time in his career. I'm not home.

Heck, I'm the one who suggested cutting the payroll, and look at it now, all out of control. Puts a lot of pressure on a manager, don't you think? I'm sure Ray can handle it. And I'm sure Mr. Angelos will understand if anything goes wrong.

I know it was only one game, but shoot, they all count. Start the season with an "L" in that town, and everyone gets a little nervous.

Me, I'd shake things up. You know, tinker a little. Drop Brady in the order. Maybe bench Cal.

But that's just me. Ray, he's on his own. I mean, you can communicate with the owner and players all you want, but you've got to do it between the lines, you know what I'm saying? Ray, he's in tough.

He's got all those veterans who want to play. As for Tuesday, well, I might have changed the lineup a bit, but five hits is five hits.

"Course, I'm not managing right now, but I'm available, you know what I'm saying? Maybe George will call, if Joe loses tonight. Yeah, New York. They miss me in that town.

In fact, I've already got my first news conference planned. I'll get Jeffrey Maier to stand by my side, and say, "Sure glad he's on my club now.

"Then we'll go out and smoke somebody. Maybe the Royals, maybe the Orioles."

(The Baltimore Sun)